



Trump pondering Kelly's status, 3-5 Cabinet changes

By JONATHAN LEMIRE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump isn't committing to a previous pledge to keep chief of staff John Kelly for the remainder of his term, part of widespread speculation about staffing changes that could soon sweep through his administration. Trump, in a wide-ranging interview that aired on "Fox News Sunday," praised Kelly's work ethic and much of what he brings to the position but added, "There are certain things that I don't like that he does."

"There are a couple of things where it's just not his strength. It's not his fault. It's not his strength," said Trump, who added that Kelly himself might want to depart.

Continued on Page 3



President Donald Trump answers a question from a member of the media as he leaves the White House, Saturday Nov. 17, 2018, in Washington, en route to see fire damage in California.

Associated Press

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New black officers, court officials rethinking U.S. policing

By JAY REEVES
Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP)

— Veteran Alabama law enforcement officer Mark Pettway grew up in a black neighborhood called "Dynamite Hill" because the Ku Klux Klan bombed so many houses there in the 1950s and '60s.

Now, after becoming the first black person elected sheriff in Birmingham - on the same day voters

elected the community's first black district attorney - Pettway sees himself as part of a new wave of officers and court officials tasked with enforcing laws and rebuilding community trust fractured by police shootings, mass incarceration, and uneven enforcement that critics call racist. In a state where conservative politicians typically preach about getting tough on crime, Jefferson

County's new sheriff ran and won on an alternative message. He favors decriminalizing marijuana, opposes arming school employees, supports additional jailhouse education programs to reduce recidivism and plans for deputies to go out and talk to people more often, rather than just patrolling. "Going forward we need to think about being smarter and not being harder," said



This photo provided by the Mark Pettway campaign shows Sheriff-elect Mark Pettway, of Jefferson County, Ala.

Associated Press

the Democrat Pettway, 54. While the nation's law enforcement officers are still mostly white men, and groups including the American Civil Liberties Union and Black Lives Matter call for sweeping changes in the criminal justice system, minorities appear to be making gains nationwide. In Pettway's case, strong turnout by African-American voters, combined with national concern over police shootings of unarmed people of color, helped him defeat longtime Sheriff Mike Hale, a white Republican, said professor Angela K. Lewis, interim chair of political science at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Winners in other cities attributed their success to similar factors.

Houston voters elected 17 black women as judges in the midterms.

Even before the election, nearly the entire criminal justice system in the Georgia city of South Fulton, near Atlanta was run by black women, including the chief judge, prosecutor, chief clerk and public defender.

They're offering more

chances for criminal defendants to avoid convictions through pre-trial programs and increased use of taxpayer-funded lawyers to protect the rights of the accused.

Chief Judge Tiffany C. Sellers of South Fulton's municipal court said officials also explain court procedures in detail to defendants, many of whom haven't been in court before and are scared.

"Black and brown people often feel disenfranchised from the system, and I want them to understand what is going on," Sellers said.

"At the end of the day they may not like what I did with their case, but at least they know I explained things to them."

Midterms voters in five North Carolina counties elected black Democratic sheriffs for the first time, including Gerald Baker in Wake County. He defeated a longtime Republican incumbent by campaigning on ending the county's participation in a Trump administration program to detain people suspected of being in the country illegally and advocating for greater police accountability.

The message resonated in a county where a deputy and two highway troopers were charged in the beating of a black man earlier this year. Kyron Hinton suffered injuries including a broken nose, multiple dog bites and a fractured eye socket.

"If we make a mistake out here in the actions that we take then we should take responsibility for those things," Baker said in an interview after the election.

Yet despite gains by people of color, officials like Baker still represent a minority in U.S. law enforcement. □

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Trump pondering Kelly's status, 3-5 Cabinet changes**Continued from Front**

Asked whether he would keep Kelly in his post through 2020, the president offered only that "it could happen." Trump had earlier pledged publicly that Kelly would remain through his first term in office, though many in the West Wing were skeptical.

Trump said he was happy with his Cabinet but was thinking about changing "three or four or five positions." One of them is Homeland Security chief Kirstjen Nielsen, whose departure is now considered inevitable. Trump said in the interview that he could keep her on, but he made clear that he wished she would be tougher in implementing his hard-line immigration policies and enforcing border security.

The list of potential replacements for Nielsen includes a career lawman, two military officers and former acting U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement head. But her eventual replacement will find there's no getting around the immigration laws and court challenges that have thwarted the president's hard-line agenda at every turn — even if there's better personal chemistry.

Trump also discussed the removal of Mira Ricardel, a deputy national security adviser who is being moved to another position in the administration after clashes with the East Wing culminated in an extraordinary statement from first lady Melania Trump that

called for her removal. The president said Ricardel was "not too diplomatic, but she's talented" and downplayed the idea that his wife was calling the shots in the White House. "(The first lady's team) wanted to go a little bit public because that's the way they felt and I thought it was fine," Trump said. He also dismissed a series of reports that he had been fuming in the week after the Democrats captured the House, claiming instead that the mood of the West Wing was "very light." The president also addressed a series of other topics:

— He said he "would not get involved" if his choice for acting attorney general, Matt Whitaker, decided to curtail special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into 2016 election interference and possible ties between the Trump campaign and Russia. Whitaker was previously a fierce critic of the probe, and Democrats have called for him to recuse himself from overseeing it. Trump said that "It's going to be up to him" and that "I really believe he's going to do what's right."

— He downplayed a federal judge's decision to restore CNN reporter Jim Acosta's White House press pass but derided an alleged lack of "decorum" among reporters who cover the administration.

— He also defended his incendiary attacks on the press, which include labeling reporters the "enemy of the people," a phrase

more closely associated with authoritarian regimes. Trump suggested that his interviewer, Chris Wallace, was no "angel," and bristled when the host from Fox News, which generally gives him favorable coverage, said that the media was in "solidarity." Trump declared, "I am calling fake news, fake reporting, is what's tearing this country apart because people know, people like things that are happening and they're not hearing about it." □



White House Chief of Staff John Kelly watches as President Donald Trump speaks during a signing ceremony for the "Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Act," in the Oval Office of the White House, Friday, Nov. 16, 2018, in Washington.

Associated Press

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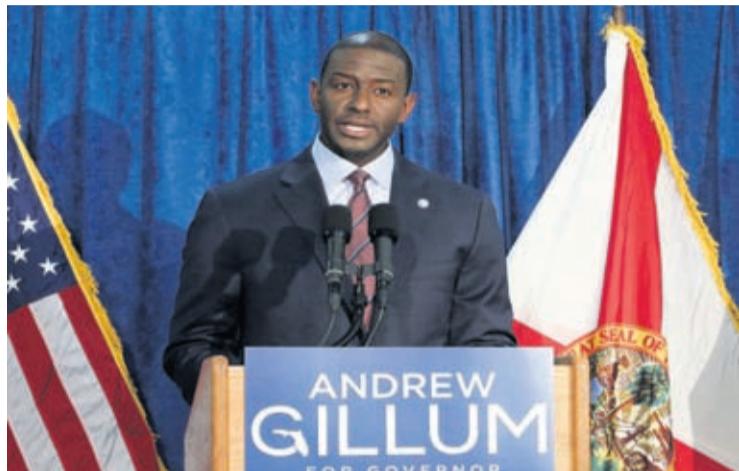
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Andrew Gillum the Democrat candidate for governor speaks at a news conference on Saturday, Nov. 10, 2018, in Tallahassee, Fla.

Associated Press

1st black Democratic nominee for Florida governor concedes

By GARY FINEOUT and
BRENDAN FARRINGTON
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Andrew Gillum, who tried to energize Florida's young and minority voters through a Democratic coalition seeking to end two decades of Republican control of the governor's office, ended his hard-

fought campaign Saturday as the state's first black nominee for the post.

Gillum, whose refrain had been "bring it home" as he recounted stories of growing up poor in the state, concluded his campaign with a Facebook video he recorded alongside his wife in a park.

In his four-minute plus video, Gillum congratulated Republican Ron DeSantis and also vowed to remain politically active even though his term as mayor of the Florida capital of Tallahassee ends next week. Of his future plans, Gillum said: "stay tuned."

Gillum, just 39 years old, earned national attention and financial backing from well-known liberal billionaires with his first bid for statewide office. He ran on a liberal platform that included expanding Medicaid and raising taxes to spend more on education even though both ideas would have been hard to pass through the GOP-controlled Legislature.

His final act as a candidate was less confrontational than that of another prominent African-American candidate in this year's midterm elections: Stacy Abrams in neighboring Georgia ended her campaign for governor on Friday, ceding to a Republican with an unapologetically indignant tone establishing herself as a leading voting rights advocate.

"This has been the journey of our lives," said Gillum, appearing in the video with his wife, R. Jai Gillum. "Although nobody wanted to be governor more than me that this was not just about an election cycle. This was about creating the type of

change in this state that really allows for the voices of everyday people to show up again in our government, in our state, and in our communities. We know that this fight continues."

Gillum's concession came hours before Florida's counties must turn in their official results at noon Sunday after tense days of recounting ballots in both the gubernatorial and a U.S. Senate contest — two nationally watched midterm elections that have kept the presidential swing state on edge since Election Day.

Gillum's brief remarks came hours after President Donald Trump, who at one point in the campaign had sharply criticized Gillum, praised him for running a tough race. Gillum had initially conceded to DeSantis on election night, but he retracted it as the razor-thin margin between the two candidates narrowed. But he still trailed DeSantis by more than 30,000 votes following a legally required machine recount. Counties are wrapping up a hand recount this weekend and must submit their official results by noon Sunday.

Gillum's concession assures Florida Republicans will retain their grasp on the governor's office since Jeb Bush's term starting in 1999. DeSantis, 40, was considered an underdog before Trump tweeted his support for DeSantis in December, a month before DeSantis even entered the race. Trump campaigned to help push DeSantis to a primary victory in August and visited Florida two more times to help the Republican in the final days of the election. □

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Rhodes scholar class features plenty of women, immigrants

By PHILIP MARCELO and DEEPTI HAJELA
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — The latest crop of U.S. Rhodes scholars has more women than any other single class, and almost half of this year's recipients of the prestigious scholarship to Oxford University in England are either immigrants or first-generation Americans, the Rhodes Trust announced Sunday.

Among the 32 winners is Harvard University senior Jin Park, the first recipient covered by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, the Obama-era program that shields young immigrants from deportation.

Park, 22, of the New York City borough of Queens, arrived from South Korea with his parents when he was 7, studied molecular and cellular biology at Harvard, and founded a nonprofit to help undocumented students apply to college.

He hopes to become an immigrant advocate, saying it's important for him to use the opportunity to better others, not just himself.

"When you grow up as an undocumented immigrant in America, that understanding that your talents don't really belong to you in the traditional sense, that you have to share the fruits of your labor with others, that's just something you learn," Park said.

Alaleh Azhir, a 21-year old senior at Johns Hopkins



This September 2018 photo provided by Louis-Henri Merino shows Alaleh Azhir in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

University in Baltimore, emigrated from Iran when she was 14 — and is also one of 21 female scholars named Sunday. The New York City resident hopes eventually to become a doctor and will study women's and reproductive health at Oxford.

"I'm just a passionate advocate for women in general and that's mostly because of my background," she said. "I thought that the way I could advocate for women could be by advocating for their health."

At Chapman University in

Southern California, Vidal Arroyo, 21, reflected on his unlikely path to becoming his school's first Rhodes Scholar.

"As a Latino, a first-generation college student, and a train commuter to college, winning this scholarship means so much to me because it sheds hope for students from backgrounds like my own who have to overcome multiple barriers in pursuit of a higher education and a better future," said Arroyo, who plans to study engineering science at Oxford. □

And Eren Orbey, a 23-year-old senior at Yale University in Connecticut, whose parents emigrated from Turkey, hopes studying at Oxford will bring greater "context and clarity" to his writing. He is a regular contributor to The New Yorker magazine and is working on a book about his father, who was slain in Ankara when he was just 3, and the killer.

"I'm interested in studying the ethics of revenge and forgiveness," Orbey said Sunday by email. "I think that our culture and media coverage often condescend to immigrants and survivors of trauma. In my writing, I hope to recast tragedy and strife as occasions for growth and heroism."

The U.S. Rhodes scholars join a separate, international group of scholars representing more than 60 countries.

Rhodes Scholarships provide all expenses for at least two years of study at Oxford. They were created in 1902 in the will of Cecil Rhodes, a British businessman and Oxford alum who was a prime minister of the Cape Colony in present-day South Africa. □

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Ed Department investigates claims against women's programs

By MARIA DANILOVA

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — At home in Turkey, Kursat Pekgoz considered himself a feminist. In the world of American higher education, where he is now pursuing a doctorate in English literature, the 30-year-old activist says it is men who are being treated unfairly. Arguing that campus resource groups for women and women's studies programs amount to discrimination against men, Pekgoz has filed federal complaints against several universities with the backing of the National Coalition for Men, an American men's rights organization.

The Education Department is taking the complaints seriously. Over the last year,



Kursat Pekgoz, a PhD student at the University of Southern California, poses for a photo on the school's campus on Oct. 29, 2018, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

its civil rights division has opened investigations into Yale, Princeton, the University of Southern California and Tulane University to determine whether their women's programs vio-

late Title IX, a federal law that prohibits sex discrimination at schools that receive federal funding. The department also has received complaints against Georgetown, Northeastern

and the University of Pennsylvania.

With more women attending and graduating from college than men in America, Pekgoz says women no longer need additional support.

"Women are the majority, so I really cannot see how this is not discrimination against men," said Pekgoz, a student at the University of Southern California. He studied English literature in Turkey and moved to the U.S. four years ago to pursue an advanced degree. "We can't keep living in the past on these issues."

While the number of women attending college has grown significantly in recent decades, women are still underrepresented in science and technology and in leadership positions in higher education. Scholars say women's studies and gender studies, as fields of academic study, are open to men like any other. And advocates of initiatives targeting women in particular say they are crucial to help them succeed in a time when women continue to earn less than men and sexual harassment remains widespread on campuses and in the workplace.

The investigations come at a time when President Donald Trump's administration is pushing ahead with a conservative agenda on other fronts in higher education. Administration officials are endorsing giving greater rights to those accused of sexual assault on campus and pushing back against race-based affirmative action in admissions.

Carly Thomsen, a professor of feminist studies at Vermont's Middlebury College, dismissed the complaints as a backlash

against women's activism and the #MeToo movement.

"They are trying to dress up their desire to hold on to power as an equity issue," Thomsen said.

The complaints under investigation by the Education Department describe opportunities that appear to exclude men.

The Yale Women Innovators, a weekly event series, is discriminatory, Pekgoz argues, because it says it is open to "all Yale women and non-binary femme students, alumni, faculty staff, and community members." At Princeton, he said in another complaint, the university treats male students unfairly by offering a course on defending against sexual assault only to women.

"Everything should be available on a gender-neutral basis," Pekgoz said. The Education Department is also looking into whether the Cagney and Lacey Fellowship at the University of Southern California shows prejudice against male applicants because it is awarded to "a returning woman student."

Yale and USC said they are committed to nondiscrimination. Princeton said the school is providing the Education Department with the necessary information. Following the complaint, Tulane University is considering how to administer women's empowerment programs "without regard to their sex."

The Education Department said in a statement that it enforces Title IX so that "all students, including men, have equal access to educational opportunity and can go to school without fear of sex discrimination." It would not comment on specific investigations. □

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Prison inmate death after run-in with staff ruled homicide

By JOHN O'CONNOR
AP Political Writer

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) —

The death of an inmate following an "altercation with correctional staff" at Western Illinois Correctional Center in May has been ruled a homicide, according to an autopsy report provided to The Associated Press under a Freedom of Information request.

Larry Earvin died from blunt trauma to the chest and abdomen, the death certificate from Clinton County in southern Illinois said. The 65-year-old Earvin sustained 15 rib fractures and two dozen or more abrasions, hemorrhages and lacerations. Surgery to remove a portion of his bowel appears to have followed the injury, the report says.

The FBI is investigating the May 17 incident at the prison in Mount Sterling, about 250 miles (400 kilometers) southwest of Chicago. Illinois Department of Corrections officials declined to disclose details of the altercation.

At least four Western Illinois employees were placed on administrative leave with pay on May 22, according to documents provided under the Freedom of Information Act. Suspended for allegedly violating conduct standards were correctional Sgt. Willie Hedden, 40, of Mount Sterling; correctional Lts. Benjamin Burnett, 33, of Winchester, and Blake Haubrich, 30, of Quincy and correctional officer Alex Banta, 27, of Quincy. Earvin was black. The race of the officers allegedly involved in the altercation is uncertain.

Earvin, serving a six-year sentence for a Cook County robbery and scheduled for release in September, was airlifted to a regional hospital after the incident, Corrections spokeswoman Lindsey Hess said in July. He died six weeks after he was airlifted, on June 26, at Centralia Correctional Center, according to the death certificate signed by Clinton County Coroner Phillip Moss.

Moss declined comment. So did Dr. Gershon Norfleet, the St. Louis forensic pathologist who performed the autopsy with special agents from the FBI and Illinois State Police and a state police crime scene investigator attending. Neither FBI spokesman Brad Ware nor Hess would comment on the autopsy. "The IDOC (corrections department) has cooperated fully with federal authorities and, as per FBI policy, we are not allowed to discuss details regarding an investigation," Hess said in an email.

In addition to the broken ribs and multiple abrasions which showed signs of healing at the time of death, Earvin had pneumonia, a tracheostomy tube and a chest tube to drain fluids, all associated with chest trauma, according to Norfleet's findings. Under the heading "blunt abdominal trauma," the report says that a portion of Earvin's colon had been removed surgically and an ileostomy bag installed for waste removal.

In Earvin's system were morphine and Hydrocodone for pain and drugs used for anxiety and depression. He also had severe narrowing of the aorta, high blood pressure, cirrhosis and Hepatitis C.

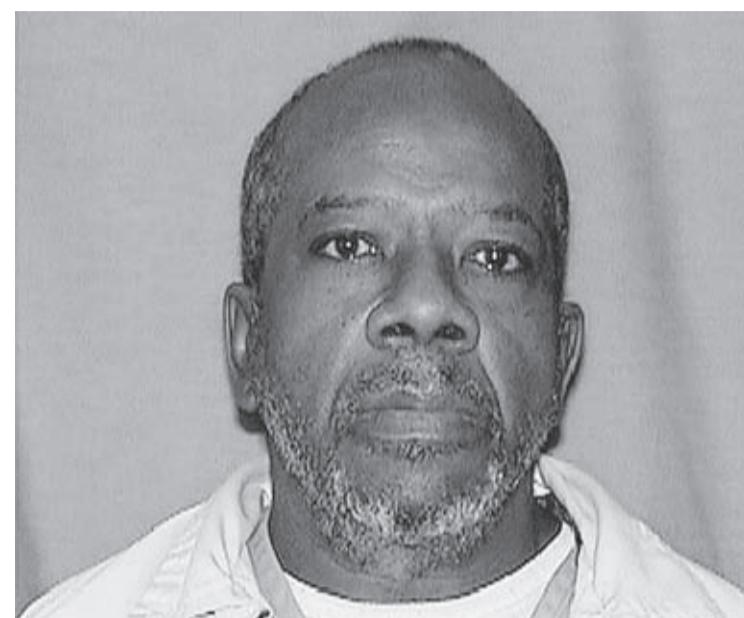
The death certificate indicates that Earvin was born in an unknown Mississippi city. He was sentenced to six years in prison in 2015 for theft of merchandise under \$300 in Cook County. His rap sheet also includes a seven-year stretch in 2004 for aggravated arson and previous convictions for retail theft, burglary, theft and attempted burglary dating to 1984.

The AP has been unable

to locate any members of Earvin's family.

Hedden, Burnett, Haubrich and Banta were placed on administrative leave for "violations of standards of conduct pending investigation," documents show. Hess declined comment on the officers' current status and would not confirm their suspensions were connected to the Earvin incident. But in the department's response to the AP's request for their disciplinary records, the department indicated it was withholding relevant documents because the "FBI is the primary investigative agency in this matter and has determined that a release of these records would jeopardize the investigation."

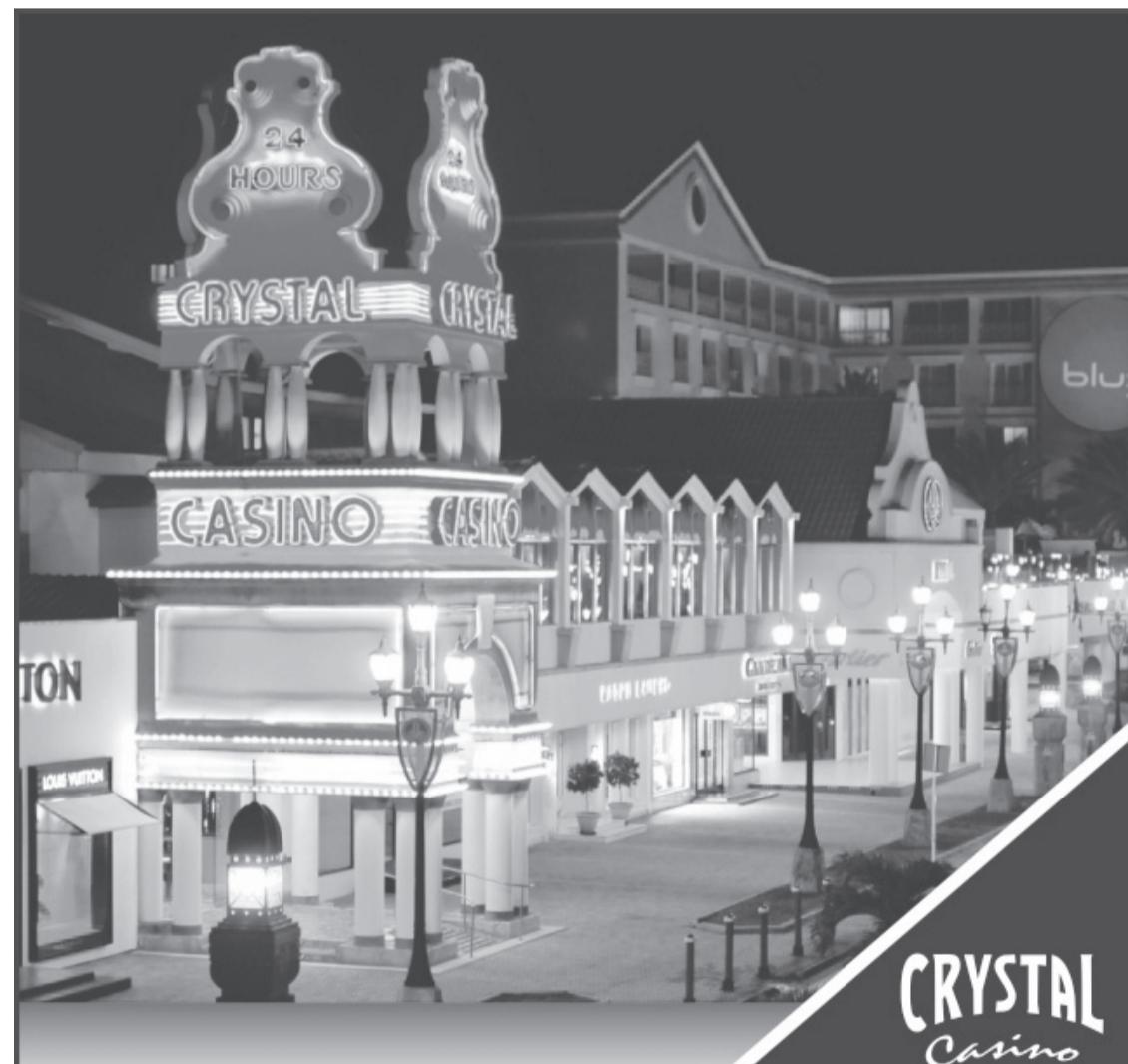
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This undated photo provided by the Illinois Department of Corrections shows Larry Earvin, a former inmate at Western Illinois Correctional Center in Mt Sterling, Ill.

Associated Press

ment when contacted. Messages left after calling numbers associated with the other correctional staff, Burnett, Haubrich and Banta, were not returned. □



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Scattered tax protests persist in France; injuries up to 409

By ELAINE GANLEY

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe, standing firm against a wave of grassroots protests, said Sunday that fuel tax hikes would remain in place despite nationwide agitation.

"The course we set is good and we will keep it," Philippe said during an interview on TV station France-2, "It's not when the wind blows that you change course."

Nearly 300,000 protesters paralyzed traffic at more than 2,000 strategic sites around France on Saturday in a bid to force the government to lower taxes on diesel fuel and gasoline. Other issues, like buying power, melted into the main demand as the demonstrations unfolded.

A protester was struck and killed Saturday when a pan-



Protesters shout anti government slogan on the place de la Concorde to protest fuel taxes in Paris, France, Saturday, Nov. 17, 2018.

icked driver facing a road-block in the eastern Savoie region. French press reports Sunday said the driver was charged with manslaughter and released. At last count, at least 409 people had been injured — 14 seriously, Interior Minister Christophe Castaner said Sun-

day on RTL radio. Holdouts refusing to end the protests continued to slow traffic Sunday. Blockades were counted at 150 scat-

tered locations Sunday, Castaner told RTL radio. Protesters were notably in Rennes, in western France, Avignon, in the south, and Nancy, in the east, where police moved in to clear them.

The situation throughout the night was "agitated," Castaner said, with "aggressions, fights, knife-slicing" taking place, including among the protesters.

Overall, 157 people were detained for questioning - double the number reported Saturday night.

The upstart movement behind the weekend protests represents middle-class citizens and those with fewer means who rely on their cars to get to work. The protesters called themselves "yellow jackets" after the safety vests French drivers are obliged to keep in their cars for emergencies. □

In Jordan's ancient Petra, sirens warn of flash floods

By LAURE VAN RUYMBEKE

Associated Press

PETRA, Jordan (AP) — In ancient times, Arab tribesmen dug diversion tunnels to protect their low-lying trading post of Petra against desert flash floods. More than two millennia later, an alarm system warns visitors if flood water rushes toward what has become Jordan's main tourist attraction.

Earlier this month, the alarms were activated for the first time, said Hussein al-Hasanat of the Petra Development & Tourism Region Authority. Sirens blared minutes before a



In this Feb. 13, 2017 file photo, tourists brave a rare rainstorm in plastic ponchos to hike deeper into Jordan's famous Petra archaeological park, southern Jordan.

torrent fed by heavy rains approached the UNESCO World Heritage site carved

into rose-hued rock face. Hundreds of tourists were able to seek higher ground

and were later evacuated, he said.

Amateur video posted online at the time showed visitors running through a steep, narrow canyon leading to the Treasury, Petra's main draw, as guides urged them to hurry. Later, visitors were seen standing on a higher patch near the Treasury as knee-high water poured through the canyon.

Elsewhere in Jordan, such alarms are still missing. Thirty-four people were killed in flash floods in late September and early November. The last fatal flash flood

struck Petra in 1963 when 22 French tourists and a local guide were killed by rapidly rising waters. In response, Jordan's Department of Antiquities built a dam to keep water from entering the canyon leading to the Treasury.

On Nov. 9, the system was triggered for the first time, through a computer in the Petra Authority's control room.

The computer is connected to eight rain forecast systems and two water detection stations placed in the area, within 8 kilometers (5 miles) of Petra. □

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UK leader warns ousting her won't make Brexit talks easier

By SYLVIA HUI

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's besieged Prime Minister Theresa May warned Sunday that a leadership change wouldn't make Brexit negotiations easier, as opponents in her Conservative Party threaten to unseat her and the former Brexit secretary suggested she failed to stand up to bullying from European Union officials.

As furious Conservative rebels try to gather the numbers to trigger a no-confidence vote, May insisted she hadn't considered quitting.

"A change of leadership at this point isn't going to make the negotiations any easier and it isn't going to change the parliamentary arithmetic," she told Sky News in an interview.

May added that the next seven days "are going to be critical" for successful



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May takes a drink of water during a press conference inside 10 Downing Street in London, Thursday, Nov. 15, 2018.

Associated Press

Brexit talks, and that she will be travelling to Brussels to meet with EU leaders before an emergency European Council summit on Nov. 25.

An announcement this week that Britain has struck a draft divorce agreement with the EU triggered a political crisis in Britain, with the deal roundly sav-

aged by both the opposition and large chunks of May's own Conservatives. Two Cabinet ministers and several junior government members quit, and more than 20 lawmakers have submitted letters of no confidence in May. Forty-eight such letters — or 15 percent of Conservative lawmakers — are needed for a leader-

ship challenge vote.

Asked about the attacks directed at her, May said: "It doesn't distract me. Politics is a tough business and I've been in it for a long time." Dominic Raab, who quit Thursday as Brexit secretary, said "there is one thing missing and that is political will and resolve."

"If we cannot close this deal on reasonable terms, we need to be very honest with the country that we will not be bribed and blackmailed or bullied and we will walk away," he told the Sunday Times.

Many pro-Brexit Conservatives want a clean break with the EU and argue that the close trade ties between the U.K. and the EU called for in the deal would leave Britain a vassal state, with no way to independently disentangle itself from the bloc.

The draft agreement envisions Britain leaving the EU

as planned on March 29, but remaining inside the bloc's single market and bound by its rules until the end of December 2020.

It also commits the two sides to the contentious "backstop" solution, which would keep the U.K. in a customs arrangement with the EU until a permanent trade treaty is worked out. That will serve to guarantee that the border between the U.K.'s Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland remained free of customs checkpoints after Brexit.

Both Britain and the EU want to ensure Northern Ireland's hard-won peace process isn't undermined, but reaching an agreement on how to achieve that had long been a key obstacle in the negotiations. Opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn called the deal a "one-way agreement" in which the EU "calls all the shots." □



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Netanyahu takes on defense post amid call for early polls

By TIA GOLDENBERG

Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday he would take on the defense minister portfolio, rejecting calls to dissolve his government even as early elections appeared increasingly likely.

Netanyahu said heading to elections now, amid repeated violent confrontations with Gaza militants, was "irresponsible" of his coalition partners, who have been pushing for early polls since the resignation last week of Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman over a Gaza cease-fire.

"Today, I take on for the first time the position of defense minister," said Netanyahu, speaking from Israel's defense headquarters in Tel Aviv in a statement broadcast live at the top of the evening newscasts.

"We are in one of the most complex security situations and during a period like this, you don't topple a government. During a period like this you don't go to elections," he said.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, center, Government Secretary Tzahi Braverman, Yuval Steinitz Israel's Minister of Energy in charge of Israel Atomic Energy Commission attend the weekly cabinet meeting at the prime minister's office in Jerusalem, Sunday, Nov. 18, 2018.

Associated Press

The sudden coalition crisis was sparked by the resignation of the hawkish Lieberman, who had demanded a far stronger response last week to the most massive wave of rocket attacks on Israel since the 2014 Israel-Hamas war. He alleges the cease-fire agreement reached with

Gaza's Hamas rulers will put southern Israel under a growing threat from the group, similar to that posed to northern Israel by Lebanon's heavily armed Hezbollah group. The departure of Lieberman and his Yisrael Beiteinu party leaves the coalition with a one-seat majority in the 120-member parliament. Netanyahu's other partners say that makes

governing untenable and would leave the coalition susceptible to the extortion of any single lawmaker until elections scheduled for November 2019.

Education Minister Naftali Bennett, of the pro-settler Jewish Home party, has already threatened to bring down the government if he is not appointed defense minister.

He and Justice Minister Ay-

elet Shaked, also of Jewish Home, are set to deliver a statement to the media Monday. If the party leaves the coalition, it would strip Netanyahu of his parliamentary majority.

Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon, another senior partner, says another year of such instability will harm the economy. A meeting between him and Netanyahu Sunday meant to convince Kahlon to stay ended with no results.

Netanyahu's Likud allies are already preparing to pin the blame on coalition partners if the effort to salvage the government fails.

"I think that there is no reason to shorten the term of a national government, not even for one day, and at this moment it's in the hands of the education minister and the finance minister," said Gilad Erdan, the minister of public security.

No Israeli government has served out its full term since 1988. Since then, elections have almost always been moved up because of a coalition crisis or a strategic move by the prime minister to maximize his chances of re-election. □

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Pope decries that 'wealthy few' feast on what belongs to all



Pope Francis incenses the altar as he celebrates a mass in St. Peter basilica at the Vatican, Sunday, Nov. 18, 2018.

Associated Press

By FRANCES D'EMILIO

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Championing the cause of the poor, Pope Francis on Sunday lamented that "the wealthy few" enjoy what, "in justice, belongs

to all" and said Christians cannot remain indifferent to the growing cries of the exploited and the indigent, including migrants.

Francis invited about 6,000 poor people as well as some of the volunteers who help

them to the splendor of St. Peter's Basilica where he celebrated Mass on a day the Catholic Church dedicates to the needy. Later, he sat down with 1,500 of the indigent for a lunch of lasagna, chicken, mashed potatoes and tiramisu in a Vatican auditorium. He cited the "stifled cry" of the unborn, of starving children, "of young people more used to the explosion of bombs than happy shouts at the playground." He also drew attention to the plight of abandoned elderly, the friendless and "the cry of all those forced to flee their homes and native land for an uncertain future. It is the cry of entire peoples, deprived even of the great natural resources at their disposal." □



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Interpol meets to select new president after China's arrest

By AYA BATRAWY

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates

(AP) — Police chiefs from around the world gathered in Dubai on Sunday for Interpol's general assembly to select a new president after the agency's former official in the post was detained in China.

Meng Hongwei—who was China's vice minister of public security while also leading Interpol—went missing while on a trip to China in September. It later emerged that the longtime Communist Party insider with decades of experience in China's security apparatus was detained as part of a sweeping purge against allegedly corrupt or disloyal officials under President Xi Jinping's authoritarian administration.

Interpol member-states will also be deciding whether to accept Kosovo as a full member, which would allow officials there to file red notices for Serbian officials that Kosovo considers war criminals.

The red notices are alerts circulated by Interpol to all member countries that identify a person wanted for arrest by another country. Interpol says there are 57,289 active red notices around the world.

Interpol acts as a clearinghouse for national police services that want to hunt down suspects outside their borders. The body, however, has faced criticism that governments have abused the "red notice" system to go after political enemies and dissidents, even though its charter explicitly



Jurgen Stock, Secretary General of Interpol, right, and commander-in-chief of Dubai Police Abdullah Al Marri arrive for a press conference at the opening day of 87th International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol) General Assembly in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Sunday, Nov. 18, 2018.

Associated Press

proclaims its neutrality and prohibits the use of police notices for political reasons. Two years ago, Interpol introduced new measures aimed at strengthening the legal framework around the red notice system. As part of the changes, an international team of lawyers and experts first check a notice's compliance with Interpol rules and regulations before it goes out. Interpol also says it enhanced the work of an appeals body for those targeted with red notices.

Chinese authorities say Meng is being lawfully investigated for taking bribes and other crimes. China's beleaguered rights activists point out that as someone with a seat atop the country's powerful public security apparatus, Meng helped build the opaque system of largely unchecked power wielded by the ruling Communist Party to which he's now fallen victim.

Meng's wife has told The Associated Press from France that the bribery accusation

he faces is just an excuse for a lengthy detention and that he is being persecuted for political reasons.

As more than 1,000 delegates from most of the 192 member-states began filling the main hall for the annual event, Interpol Secretary-General Jurgen Stock explained to reporters that the agency's rules did not allow for Meng to continue acting as president. Meng had been serving as president since November 2016, and his term was due to end in 2020.

He said Interpol received Meng's resignation letter from China on Oct. 7 and that Interpol was notified by Chinese authorities that Meng is no longer a delegate to Interpol.

"It sounds a little technical but again that automatically leads to the fact, according to our rules, that he is not the president anymore," Stock said. "We had to take the measures to ensure the functioning of the organization."

In Meng's place on Sun-

day, senior vice president of Interpol's executive committee, Kim Jong Yang of South Korea—who was previously named acting president—helped open the ceremony for the general assembly meeting.

A little more than a week ago, Stock told reporters in France—where Interpol is headquartered—that there was no reason for him to suspect that anything about Meng's resignation "was forced or wrong." □



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Argentina minister says country without means to rescue sub

By ALMUDENA CALATRAVA
Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Hours after announcing the discovery of an Argentine submarine lost deep in the Atlantic a year ago with 44 crew members aboard, the government said Saturday that it is unable to recover the vessel, drawing anger from missing sailors' relatives who demanded that it be raised.

Defense Minister Oscar Aguad said at a press conference that the country lacks "modern technology" capable of "verifying the seabed" to extract the ARA San Juan, which was found 907 meters (2,975 feet) deep in waters off the Valdes Peninsula in Argentine Patagonia, roughly 600 kilometers (373 miles) from the port city of Comodoro Rivadavia.

Earlier in the morning, the navy said a "positive identification" had been made by a remote-operated submersible from the American company Ocean Infinity. The company, commissioned by the Argentine government, began searching for the missing vessel Sept. 7.

It remained unclear what the next steps could be. In a statement to The Associated Press, Ocean Infinity CEO Oliver Plunkett said authorities would have to determine how to advance. "We would be pleased to assist with a recovery operation but at the moment are focused on completing imaging of the debris field," he said.

Navy commander Jose Luis Villan urged "prudence," saying that a federal judge was overseeing the investigation and would be the one to decide whether it was possible to recover a

part or the entirety of the ship.

Without adequate technological capabilities, how-

ever, Argentina would likely need to seek assistance from foreign countries or pay Ocean Infinity or another company, potentially complicating its recent commitment to austerity. Argentina is currently facing a currency crisis and double-digit inflation that has led the government to announce sweeping measures to balance the budget and concretize a financing deal with the International Monetary Fund. Any move to recuperate the vessel would also be a logically large and challenging undertaking based on the submarine's distance from the coast, its depth, and the kind of seabed upon which it is resting. Relatives of crew members were determined to fight for it to be quickly surfaced. Isabel Vilca, the half sister

of crewman Daniel Alejandro Polo, told the AP that the discovery was just the beginning. She said fami-

should not feel alone and delivered an "absolute and non-negotiable commitment" to find "the truth."

tiniest mistake during the cutting phase can put the safety of the ship and crew at risk.

The navy said previously the captain reported on Nov. 15, 2017, that water entered the snorkel and caused one of the sub's batteries to short-circuit. The captain later communicated that it had been contained.

Some hours later, an explosion was detected near the time and place where the San Juan was last heard from. The navy said the blast could have been caused by a "concentration of hydrogen" triggered by the battery problem reported by the captain.

Macri promised a full investigation after the submarine was lost. Federal police raided naval bases and other buildings last January as part of the probe, soon after the government dismissed the head of the navy. Argentina gave up hope of finding survivors after an intense search aided by 18 countries, but a few navy units have continued providing logistical support to Ocean Infinity.

On Saturday, Aguad said that the vessel was found to be in an area that investigators had deemed "most likely." Officials showed images of the submarine, which was located on a seabed with its hull totally deformed. Parts of its propellers were buried and debris was scattered up to 70 meters (230 feet) away.

The German-built diesel-electric TR-1700 class submarine was commissioned in the mid-1980s and was most recently refitted between 2008 and 2014. During the \$12 million retrofitting, the vessel was cut in half and had its engines and batteries replaced. Experts said refits can be difficult because they involve integrating systems produced by different manufacturers, and even the



In this undated file photo provided by the Argentina Navy shows an ARA San Juan, a German-built diesel-electric vessel, near Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Associated Press

lies need to recover the remains of their loved ones to know what happened and help prevent similar tragedies.

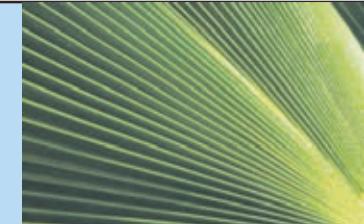
"We do know they can get it out because Ocean Infinity told us they can, that they have equipment," said Luis Antonio Niz, father of crew member Luis Niz. "If they sent him off, I want them to bring him back to me."

The sub's discovery was announced just two days after families of the missing sailors held a one-year commemoration for its disappearance on Nov. 15, 2017. The San Juan was returning to its base in the coastal city of Mar del Plata when contact was lost. On the anniversary Thursday, Argentina President Mauricio Macri said the families of the submariners

He also said: "This was an extremely challenging project and today's successful outcome, following the earlier search operations, firmly endorses our technology."

The company unsuccessfully searched for the Malaysia Airlines plane that disappeared in 2014 over the Indian Ocean. □

LOCAL



The Mill Resort & Suites Aruba celebrates Culinary Life with New Chef



PALM BEACH — Thanksgiving will be a tasteful one this year at The Mill Resort & Suites Aruba. The new chef Anna Carlotta Ellis tickle the taste buds in an amazing way. The finesse of the different dishes that make up for their Thanksgiving Dinner is a true delight and combined with the recommended wines a recipe for a successful Thanksgiving Dinner.

The traditional turkey for Thanksgiving dinner is a tough birdie as it gets easily overcooked into a dry texture. But that is not the

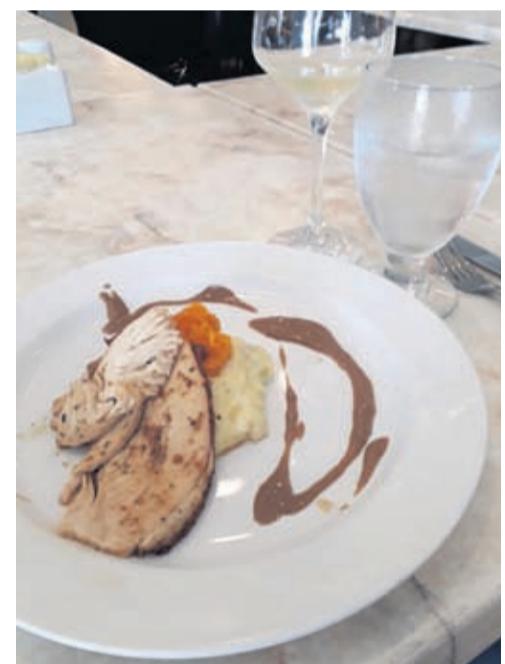
case with Ellis' turkey. The bird is roasted to a perfect, moist meat and the stuffing simply delicious. Accompanied by the traditional gravy and cranberry sauce it makes a platter to say Thank You for.

The stuffing is heavenly in taste and original in presentation as it has a Caribbean touch with yucca (cassava or manioc) and a twice-fried plantain slide. The

salad that goes as a side dish is fresh and crispy with apple, cranberry, red onion and shredded carrots.

The wonderful meal is completed with an exciting pumpkin pie in a walnut crest.

The price of this special menu is very attractive, so make your reservation as seats are limited. For more information: www.millresort.com. □



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ORANJESTAD — Aruba Today gives you the opportunity to express your gratitude to your blessings. Send us a small Thanksgiving message (maximum 10 words) with/without picture and we will publish it in our edition on Thanksgiving Day, November 22nd.

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What Is It About?

Thanksgiving is on Thursday November 22nd, the day before Black Friday. Thanksgiving Day traditionally kicks off the 'holiday season' in the United States. The day was set in stone by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1939 and approved by Congress in 1941. FDR changed it from Abraham Lincoln's designation as the last Thursday in November (because there are sometimes five

Thursdays in the month). Many Americans think of it as just as important as Christmas. In fact, more people in the US celebrate Thanksgiving than they do Christmas. Thanksgiving Day is a secular holiday in a country that officially separates church and state so this probably makes sense. Thanksgiving can be traced back to 1621 where refugees from England, known as Pilgrims, invited the local Native Americans to a harvest feast after they

experienced a successful season of produce growth. But it wasn't just the economic drive that allowed the Pilgrims to prosper. It was their devotion to God and His laws. And that's what Thanksgiving is really all about.

The Pilgrims recognized that everything we have is a gift from God – even our sorrows. Their Thanksgiving tradition was established to honor God and thank Him for His blessings and His grace. □



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Central Bank of Aruba publishes Operational Report 2017

ORANJESTAD — Today the Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) published its Operational Report 2017. This publication provides a synopsis of CBA's mandate and key policy objectives as laid down in the Central Bank Ordinance, as well as its strategic framework in place to implement its strategic plan "Bela yen: Nos Plan Strategico 2016-2020" (Bela Yen). It also highlights the main developments in the monetary sector, the financial system, and the payment system, along with the prime operational activities carried out by the CBA in 2017. In the last chapter of this report, the financial highlights of the CBA's operations is presented.

Below an overview of some of the primary developments that took place in 2017:

- A key achievement for the CBA included the formal roll-out of its strategic plan "Bela Yen", in which its strategic ambi-



tions and intended results are set for the period up to 2020.

• In conducting monetary policy, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the CBA met seven times during that year to review and analyze several monetary and economic indicators to evaluate the adjustments of its monetary in-

struments, if economic developments required such an action. During its meetings, the MPC kept monetary policy unchanged with the reserve requirement rate at 11.0 percent, as it was concluded that mentioned economic indicators were at adequate levels throughout the year.

• The international

reserves stayed above the targeted levels, supporting the fixed exchange rate regime of the florin with the US dollar.

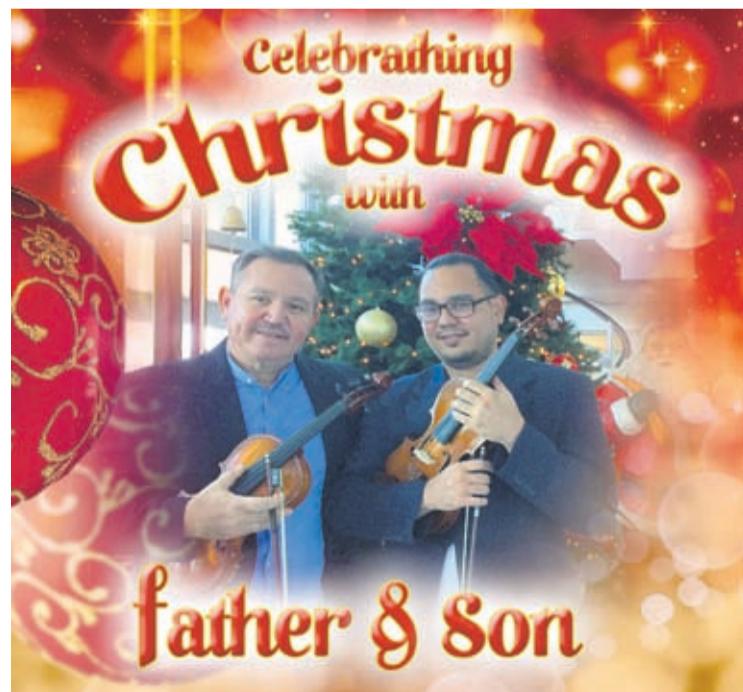
• The strict and consistent enforcement of the laws and regulations over the years contributed to maintaining a stable, liquid, and sound financial system. The regulatory framework

was also strengthened further, inter alia, with the introduction of a new and/or revised legislation and supervisory directives and guidelines.

- The CBA's financial position remained solid. Its primary source of revenue, i.e., the proceeds from its foreign exchange investment portfolio, strengthened significantly, reflecting the positive developments in the global financial markets. A prudent investment policy is executed, primarily geared towards providing adequate foreign exchange liquidity for the domestic banking sector, and for the government of Aruba, as well as to preserve its invested capital. On the other hand, the increase in the CBA's expenses remained moderate thanks to its strict monitoring thereof.

The OPERATIONAL REPORT 2017 is available on the website of the CBA www.cbaruba.org as from today. □

Father and Son release new CD "Celebrate Christmas with Father and Son"



ORANJESTAD — The well-known, young, local violinist Omar Kock together with his father Ricky Kock released a new CD with classic instrumental Christmas songs played on the violin.

The CD consists of 13 tracks that will delight you with the beautiful sphere and harmony that Christmas brings. The 2 musicians put all their heart and soul into this incredible Christmas production.

On the back cover of the CD you will see a picture of Omar when he was only 1 year old sitting in his father's lap with the violin in



his hand. This truly shows the love they both have for this instrument. For more

information you can call: +297 660-7387/ 568-8655 or 565-0744. □

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Honoring at the Aruba Beach Club

ORANJESTAD — Recently, Darline de Cuba of Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor a Loyal and Friendly visitor of Aruba as Emerald Ambassador. The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, Transportation, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20 and more consecutive years.

The Honorees are:

Ele Chesney resident from New Jersey, who has been visiting Aruba for 36 consecutive years.

John Kempf resident from Connecticut, who has been visiting Aruba for 43 consecutive years.

David & Tara visitors of Aruba for 17 consecutive years together with their children Liam, who has been coming to Aruba for 15 years and Colin also has been visiting Aruba for 12 consecutive years. They are residents of New Jersey.



The honorees love so much about Aruba. The warm and friendly people, the

sun, the fresh wind all day, there are plenty of things to do and the large selection of restaurants on the island. Darline together with repre-

sentatives of Aruba Beach Club presented the certificate to the honorees and handed over some presents to them and thanked

them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years. □

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International conference Islands-in-Between at University of Aruba

ORANJESTAD — The 21st edition of the Caribbean Islands-in-Between conference brought over 50 scholars to the University of Aruba from November 15 - 17. In collaboration with the University of Puerto Rico, the University of the West Indies and the University of the Virgin Islands, the University of Aruba organized this conference that focuses on the languages, literatures and cultures of the eastern and greater Caribbean.

The conference brought together scholars from Europe, the United States and all over the Caribbean, representing 18 universities.

The well-known Caribbean scholar Peter Roberts, pro-

fessor emeritus of Caribbean language, delivered the keynote address on Thursday morning at 9:30. He presented and discussed his 2018 book, A response to enslavement: playing their way to virtue, in which he discusses the critical role of play in human existence as the basis for its role in their response to enslavement, and the lessons that can be learnt from this in present day society.

All conference talks took place at the La Salle complex of the University of Aruba, except for the cultural evening that was organized at the nearby Flor di Oriente cultural café on Friday night.□



Pam, Paul, Geoff, Irene, Frank and Gemma celebrate their anniversary at Que Pasa



ORANJESTAD — Twenty-four years ago, Pam (52), Paul (54) were on their honeymoon on Aruba when they went to Que Pasa restaurant downtown. They had such good memories of that time that they came back to celebrate their 24th anniversary together with their friends Geoff, Irene, Frank and Gemma, now all retired. The group from Niagara Fall, Canada, was made up of Aruba-goers of 5, 25 and even 35-year repeat guests.

At Que Pasa Pam, Paul, Geoff, Irene, Frank and Gemma ordered the fish, which was excellent. And of course many memories of 24 years ago surfaced and the special day was celebrated in great style.

We hope to see you at Que Pasa next year, on your 25th wedding anniversary. Many congratulations, 'masha pabien' and have a great time together on Aruba.□



Hotel Hustle

Column by: Shanella Pantophlet

What's in a name (tag)?

A few weeks ago during a student tour of our facility, we provided the students with a quiz and one of the questions on it was, "what is the most important part of the uniform?" The answer, in case you are wondering is the employee name tag. Name tags come in various shapes and sizes, every hotel or place of business who uses them has their own unique design and logo. It's something that we put on every day without forethought about it, because we know our uniforms are incomplete without them.

As someone who has been working in timeshare for nearly 10 years and dealing consistently with the same owners year in and year out I didn't see the need or appreciate the importance of the name tag, because the guests know us and will greet us by name from a distance already.

It wasn't until my recent vacation when we stayed at a gorgeous hotel, with great staff, literally from the moment we checked in you felt like family. During the days we were at the resort, my mother actually was the first to notice that none of the employees actually had name tags on and when she mentioned it to the agent that had checked us in, she was told as part of their brand concept they don't use them. Both of us were a bit surprised to hear that, but the reasoning behind it is that they are trying to build bonds between the guests and employees, family doesn't wear name tags.



It is certainly a new and very interesting concept, unfortunately for me, I am great with faces, but terrible with names. I think most people are that way, they can recognize you or make some sort of association in order to remember your face or a physical attribute, but when it comes to names those are a bit more difficult, especially if you aren't interacting with people on a regular basis.

A small portion of the time we were there, I spent some time trying to remember people's names or using the tricks we use at our resort to try and get them to re-introduce themselves in order to be able to remember this person for when I had to review the resort. I was mostly unsuccessful, because my brain was very much on vacation mode and I never had the where with all to ask them to write their names down.

After my trip, I have come to a greater appreciation of the name tag as it serves as a visual aide to first time guests or new owners, in helping them remember the name of a staff member that has helped them. I know some of my peers don't really like to wear them or have them be visible, because if a guest has a negative experience they take your name down as well for future reference. I would like to believe though that we should take a positive spin and consider, how many positive comments is someone missing out on because they let the fear of one negative review force them into obscuring their identity. □



Aruban born and bred Shanella Pantophlet is passionate about tourism. That is the world she studied and works in, so we might as well call her a specialist. Luckily for Aruba Today Shanella also loves to write. And together with the fact that the majority of our readers are tourists, we found ourselves a perfect combination for a column: Hotel Hustle.

SPORTS



Joey Logano holds the trophy after winning the NASCAR Cup Series championship auto race at Homestead-Miami Speedway, Sunday, Nov. 18, 2018, in Homestead, Fla.

Associated Press

Joey Logano spoils Big Three party to win NASCAR title

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

HOMESTEAD, Fla. (AP) — Joey Logano busted up The Big Three and captured an improbable first NASCAR title by soundly beating a trio of champions.

Logano won the season finale Sunday at Homestead-Miami Speedway to grab his first Cup championship in a season in which he barely contended until the playoffs began. The year was dominated by Kyle Busch, Kevin Harvick and reigning series champion Martin Truex Jr., with Logano calling the final-four field "The Big Three and Me."

But Logano kicked it into another gear during the playoffs with two victories and got eight top-10 finishes in the postseason. He led a race-high 80 laps but the title was slipping away until Team Penske teammate Brad Keselowski spun Busch teammate Daniel Suarez for a race-changing caution.

TOUCH BROWN



Steelers rally to stun Jaguars in final seconds, 20-16

Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Antonio Brown catches a pass of a 78-yard touchdown against the Jacksonville Jaguars during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 18, 2018, in Jacksonville, Fla.

Associated Press

Page 20

Continued on Page 21

Gasol, Conley lead Grizzlies past Timberwolves, 100-87



Memphis Grizzlies' Mike Conley (11) shoots next to Minnesota Timberwolves' Jeff Teague (0) during the third quarter of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Nov. 18, 2018, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

By BRIAN HALL

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — With Mike Conley finally healthy to rejoin teammate Marc Gasol, and adding 6-foot-11, 242-pound rookie Jaren Jackson Jr., the Memphis Grizzlies have gone back to their long-trusted approach of physical defense.

It has got Memphis winning again, too.

Gasol had 26 points and 13 rebounds, Conley added 18 points and nine assists and the Grizzlies pulled away to beat the Minnesota Timberwolves 100-87 on Sunday.

Memphis, which entered the game with the second-most points off turnovers in the NBA, forced Minnesota into 20 turnovers and turned them into 19 points in winning for the fifth time in six games.

"That's what gives us the best chance to win against any team," Gasol said about the physical style. "I think that's who we try to

be consistently. Obviously last year was a little glitch in the system, but for the past what, 10, 11, 12 years, this team has taken pride on being a very physical team, and that's what gives us the best chance to win."

Gasol's shooting helped the Grizzlies overcome their own sluggish offensive start. He was 4 of 7 from 3-point range and Memphis hit 12 overall.

"It's a game-changer," Memphis coach J.B. Bickerstaff said of Gasol's outside shooting. "Those shots break games open for you."

Gasol scored 18 points in the second half.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 15 points and 20 rebounds for the Timberwolves. They had won three straight games since trading Jimmy Butler to Philadelphia.

"There was a physicality to the game that we probably didn't respond to as well as we could have or should have," Minnesota coach

Tom Thibodeau said.

The Wolves entered the game with the second-fewest turnovers in the NBA at 12.5 per game, but the Grizzlies were active early and forced Minnesota into eight turnovers in the first quarter. The Wolves had averaged 113 points per game in winning the first three games of the homestand after trading Butler.

"They play slow," Minnesota forward Robert Covington said.

"They played a part in it. We can't allow them to dictate our pace. We got to get the ball out, in transition we need to use our athleticism. Tonight, we weren't able to do that."

Dario Saric, who came over from the 76ers along

with Covington, hit three 3-pointers and scored 11 points in the fourth. Saric hit a 3 to draw the Wolves within eight points, but Gasol hit a pair of 3s on consecutive possessions after a timeout.

TIP-INS

Grizzlies: Memphis is 26-8 against Minnesota over the past decade. . The Grizzlies shot 33.3 percent in the first quarter and had six of their 12 turnovers. ... Memphis has won two in a row on the road for the first time since March 15-16, 2017.

Timberwolves: Minnesota held Memphis to 17 points in the first quarter, a season low for a Wolves opponent in any quarter. ... Derrick Rose scored a team-high 18 points on 6-of-11 shoot-

ing off the bench for Minnesota. ... The Wolves are 7-2 at home. . Towns had his fifth double-double in the past seven games.

GREEN RETURNS

Forward JaMychal Green returned to the Grizzlies' lineup after missing 12 games with a broken jaw. Bickerstaff said he wanted to use Green in short increments. Off the bench, Green had eight points and eight rebounds in 21 minutes.

"I felt a little rust, got to get my legs back underneath me," Green said. "But other than that, it was just fun to be out there. We played great defense tonight, we got a lot of stops. We're moving the ball well offensively." □

Roethlisberger leads Steelers to comeback win over Jags

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Sports Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) —

Ben Roethlisberger threw two interceptions on his first 12 passes. The Pittsburgh Steelers failed to score in the first half for the first time in more than two years, and they still trailed by 10 approaching the 2-minute warning.

So when Big Ben muscled his way over the goal line with 5 seconds left for a 20-16 victory over the Jacksonville Jaguars, he wasn't sure where to rank this comeback.

"Horrible games that you find a way to win? Pretty special," he said.

One week after Roethlisberger had a perfect quarterback rating, he overcame three interceptions



Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger dives over the goal line for the go ahead touchdown in front of Jacksonville Jaguars outside linebacker Telvin Smith, right, during the final seconds of an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 18, 2018, in Jacksonville, Fla.

Associated Press

and a 16-0 deficit by leading the Steelers' last two possessions, and Pittsburgh es-

caped with its sixth straight victory.

"Really, really awesome fight," Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said. "The bottom line in our business is winning, and we took care of business. Style points were quite ugly, or few, but we got the job done."

Roethlisberger hit Antonio Brown on a 78-yard touchdown to get on the board, found JuJu Smith-Schuster on a pair of shoulder fades down the sidelines and took care of the final score on his own. The Steelers had one timeout from the 1 when Roethlisberger rolled to his right and barely got the ball across.

"I don't know what option I am, but it's way down the list," he said. "You just find a way."

The Steelers (7-2-1) likely ended any playoff hopes for Jacksonville (3-7), which beat them twice last year, including the divisional playoffs. The Jaguars, who controlled the game until the last five minutes, now have dropped six in a row. As much as Roethlisberger led the Steelers, the defense gave him a chance. Jacksonville ran only 11 plays in the fourth quarter for minus-7 yards, including three of their six sacks of Blake Bortles.

"We have to be able to get first downs and close the game out," Jaguars coach Doug Marrone said. "If you just had one first down on any of those drives, you had a chance to win that football game, and we weren't able to do that."

Leonard Fournette ran for 95 yards on 28 carries, and he caught two passes for 46 yards that led to the Jaguars' only touchdown when he launched himself from the 4 and scored for a 16-0 lead with 2:09 left in the third quarter.

Roethlisberger, who now has 10 turnovers in his last three games against Jacksonville, took over from there.

After the long TD to Brown, Roethlisberger found tight end Vance McDonald in the back of the end zone to cut the lead to 16-13 with 2:28 remaining.

Pittsburgh kicked off and the Jaguars went three-and-out, and then Roethlisberger led a 68-yard drive. He hit Smith-Schuster on the left sideline for a 35-yard gain to the 27 that at least got the Steelers in field goal position.

James Conner, throttled in the running game, dropped a sure touchdown when he got behind linebacker Telvin Smith Sr., turning his eyes to goal line as the ball bounced off his hands. No matter. Roethlisberger hit Brown over the middle to the 2, and after a pair of penalties, he delivered the winner.

Roethlisberger was 27 of 47 for 314 yards, 170 of them in the fourth quarter.

Even with the early turnovers, Jacksonville only managed three field goals from Josh Lambo in the first half. Bortles was largely ineffective, throwing for just 104 yards. His biggest gains were to Fournette out of the backfield.

STEELER SACKS

Pittsburgh came into the game tied for the league lead with 31 sacks and got to Bortles six times. Javon Hargrave and T.J. Watt each had two. Watt now has 17 career sacks, the most by a Steelers player in his first two seasons since Keith Willis, who had 15 in 1982 and 1983.

Two sacks, by Vince Williams and Cameron Heyward, came early in the fourth quarter after the Jags took over on the Pittsburgh 41.

"We were in this position last year and we gave up big plays at the end of the game," Hargrave said, referring to the 45-42 play-off loss to Jacksonville. "So we knew we had to make stops. We did that gave our offense a chance to come back, and they did."

RAMSEY SHINES

One week after Jaguars cornerback Jalen Ramsey tweeted after a loss to the Colts that "when I'm gone from here, y'all gone miss me," he had his best game of the year. Ramsey had two interceptions, none bigger than in the end zone over Brown. □

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NASCAR title

Continued from Page 18

He was fourth on the restart with 15 laps remaining but powered his way alongside leader Truex, used a power move in the outside lane three laps later to take over the top spot and he pulled away to win for Roger Penske.

"We were the favorite. We executed down the stretch like nobody's business," Logano said. "I knew we had a short-run car. I said it before the race started that if it was anything longer than 25 laps we were going to be in trouble. That showed all day. But it came down to the short run and we are champions. NASCAR champions."

Logano won the title in his 10th season in NASCAR and with his second team. He started with Joe Gibbs Racing as a teenager, was pushed into the Cup Series prematurely when Gibbs needed a replacement driver for Tony Stewart, and was snagged by Penske when Gibbs let Logano go after the 2012 season.

"I think it's great for them and Joey," Gibbs said. "Great kid, great family. I'm sure he's going to make a great champion." He is the second Cup champion for Penske, the titan of motorsports who has had a banner year. Penske also this season was elected into the NASCAR Hall of Fame, won the Indianapolis 500 for a record 17th time and celebrated Team Penske's 500th victory as an organization.

Team Penske has also been the cornerstone for Ford the last six seasons and Logano gave the manufacturer its first Cup title since 2004.

"He sure delivered for us," Penske said. "I don't want him to change at all. He

needs to do just what he did today, beat all these guys and win fair and square."

NASCAR's final weekend concluded with three new champions from three different teams representing all three manufacturers. Brett Moffitt won the Truck Series title in a Toyota for Hattori Racing, Tyler Reddick won the Xfinity Series title in a Chevrolet for JR Motorsports, and Ford finally got a title on what is officially called "Ford Championship Weekend."

Truex finished second in his final race with Furniture Row Racing. The team is closing because it lost its primary sponsor midway through Truex's championship reign.

"It's a tough way to lose," Truex said. "I had nothing for him at the end. That's just the way it goes. I don't know what else to say. It hurts a little, and I'm going to miss all of the guys."

Harvick was third and Busch fourth as the title contenders followed each other across the finish line.

"We weren't even close," said Busch, who used strategy to keep up with the other title contenders.

"We were so bad tonight on the racetrack and on pit road that nothing was kind of going our way. So it was just not all there the way that we needed it to, and sometimes it all falls into place and falls your way, and other times you've got to be able to go out there and go earn it, and we didn't have either."

In fact, Busch's crew had one of its worst races of the year on pit road as the front tire changer had hiccups on several stops. It negated any advantage Busch gained when team owner Gibbs forced Denny



Joey Logano (22) approaches the finish line to win a NASCAR Cup Series Championship auto race at the Homestead-Miami Speedway, Sunday, Nov. 18, 2018, in Homestead, Fla.

Associated Press

Hamlin not to take the first pit stall and leave it open so Busch would have an easier exit back onto the track. But he lost six positions during one stop, four in another, and his team had to gamble on strategy

to stay in contention. It was Busch who said losing the title would be most disappointing if it went to Logano because Logano wasn't in the same league as the Big Three all season. But Logano was adamant

he was the favorite, in part because he wasn't even supposed to make the final four after just one regular season victory. Busch and Harvick ended the season with eight wins each, while Truex had four. □

Sebastien Ogier wins 6th straight World Rally Championship

COFFS HARBOUR, Australia (AP) — Sebastien Ogier won his sixth straight World Rally Championship after a final day of racing at Rally Australia ended the hopes of his only two challengers for the season title.

The Frenchman started a wet Sunday needing to hold his spot ahead of Thibaut Neuville, while overnight rally leader Ott Tanak also remained with a chance of moving ahead of Ogier.

Instead it was that pair which failed to finish, with Neuville clipping a tree with three stages remaining and Tanak running off the road on the second-last stage. The 34-year-old Ogier sealed the title in



In this photo provided by Rally Australia Sebastien Ogier, right, and co-driver Julien Ingrassia celebrate their World Rally Car championship near Coffs Harbour, Australia, Sunday, Nov. 18, 2018.

Associated Press

fashion, though, blitzing the seven-kilometer Wedding Bells final stage to claim

his only forest stage victory of the rally and five bonus points. □

Zverev beats Djokovic in 2 sets to win ATP Finals title

By SAM JOHNSTON

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Alexander Zverev upset Novak Djokovic to claim the biggest title of his career with a 6-4, 6-3 victory at the ATP Finals on Sunday.

The 21-year-old Zverev became the youngest champion of the season-ending event since Djokovic claimed the first of his five titles a decade ago, and the first from Germany since 1995.

Top-ranked Djokovic was attempting to tie Roger Federer's record of six titles but followed the same path as the Swiss great, who lost to Zverev in the semifinals at the O2 Arena.

Djokovic's serve hadn't been broken all tournament until the final. Zverev

did it once in the first set and three times in the second, completing the victory with a spectacular backhand winner up the line.

Both players began the match in the same form that had seen them earn straight-sets semifinal victories a day earlier, with few points going against the server.

It was Djokovic, who had lost just two of his previous 37 matches, who began to feel the pressure as consecutive forehand errors gave Zverev a chance to serve out the opening set at 5-4.

Fans gave Zverev a huge ovation as he stepped up to serve, and it appeared to inspire him. Three straight aces brought up three set points, the second of which



Alexander Zverev of Germany celebrates breaking serve against Novak Djokovic of Serbia in their ATP World Tour Finals singles final tennis match at the O2 Arena in London, Sunday Nov. 18, 2018.

Associated Press

he took when Djokovic sent another forehand long.

Zverev even began to outlast Djokovic in longer rallies, an area of the game the 14-time Grand Slam champion usually dominates. A 26-shot duel brought up another break point in the opening game of the second set and, although Djokovic saved it, Zverev won another lengthy exchange moments later with a forehand winner to go 1-0 up.

With the biggest win of his career in sight, Zverev began to show some nerves. Although he is the only active player outside of the Big Four of Djokovic, Federer, Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray to possess three or more Masters titles, the young German has only reached one Grand Slam quarterfinal.

Two double faults and two backhand errors gifted Djokovic an immediate break back, but Zverev quickly refocused to win a 28-shot rally on his way to breaking in the following game.

From there he remained solid on serve, before ending with a flourish. Having been pushed wide, a backhand winner on the run drifted past the helpless Djokovic.

Zverev sunk to the ground

in tears as Djokovic sportingly crossed the net to embrace the player who will now be considered among the favorites to end the Serb's run of two consecutive Grand Slam victories in Australia in two months' time. Earlier, American pair Mike Bryan and Jack Sock saved a match point in the deciding tiebreaker to beat Pierre-Hughes Herbert and Nicolas Mahut 5-7, 6-1, 13-11 for their first ATP Finals doubles title together.

Having failed to take advantage of five championship points during the first-to-10 match tiebreaker, Bryan and Sock then had to save one against their French opponents before finally closing out victory.

"It was a hell of a match," Bryan said.

The 40-year-old Bryan has now won the tournament five times. He won four times with his usual partner — and brother — Bob, who has been out with an injured hip since May.

Sock and Bryan have dominated since teaming up, winning Wimbledon and the U.S. Open before finishing their season in style in London.

"It's been a hell of a ride," Bryan said. "This could be our last hoorah because Bob's training back in Florida." □



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Charles Howell III wins RSM Classic in playoff

ST. SIMONS ISLAND, Ga. (AP) — Charles Howell III made a 15-foot birdie putt on the second hole of a playoff with Patrick Rodgers on Sunday in the RSM Classic to end an 11-year victory drought.

Howell dropped to his knees and buried his head in his hands, then tearfully embraced wife Heather and children Ansley and Chase — neither of whom were born when he last won on the PGA Tour at Riviera in 2007.

Howell earned \$1,152,000 and a return trip to his hometown of Augusta, Georgia, in April to play in the Masters for the first time since 2012.

"That was the first thing that popped into my head (after making the clinching putt)," Howell said. "Obviously, it means a lot to me being from Augusta but it means a lot to every player, right? Every golfer in the world knows what the Masters is so I'm nothing special on that. But that tournament, that atmosphere, just everything ... it's tough at home to sit back and watch that on television."

After Rodgers sent a birdie attempt of 21 feet past the cup on the second extra hole, Howell's putt died in the cup and capped a comeback in which he went bogey-double bogey on his first two holes to lose the lead he had held through the first three rounds.



Charles Howell III reacts after winning a playoff against Patrick Rodgers on the 18th green in the final round of the RSM Classic golf tournament on Sunday, Nov. 18, 2018, in St. Simons Island, Ga.

"The way I started today, I just honestly thought I shot myself in the foot again," Howell said. "I thought that was pretty much over. I had seen this movie before." Howell closed with a 3-under 67, birdieing Nos. 15-17, to match Rodgers at 19-under 263 in the final PGA Tour event of the year. After making the 36-hole cut on the 2-under number, Rodgers shot 61-62 on the weekend.

Howell had a 22-foot birdie attempt on the final hole to win in regulation, but the ball turned away from the cup inches from the edge. Both players had birdie looks on the first playoff hole, with Rodgers missing from 27 feet and Howell from 14 feet off the front fringe.

The 39-year-old Howell also won in 2002 at Kingsmill.

Rodgers' 17-under 123 weekend was one shot off Troy Matteson's PGA Tour record for consecutive rounds of 122 set the 2009 Frys.com Championship. He finished second for the third time in four years.

"I fought as hard as I could," said Rodgers, who broke Tiger Woods' scoring record at Stanford and tied his victory record. "I didn't really back down. I stayed aggressive and I made birdies all the way to the finish. It's a testament to how well Charles played."

Webb Simpson (65) had a 12-foot birdie opportunity at the final hole to join the playoff, but missed. He lost the RSM Classic in sudden death to Ben Crane in 2011. Luke List (65) and Bryan Blaum (66) tied for fourth at 17 under and Tour rookie Cameron Champ, who took the lead after Howell's early stumbles and was in a four-way tie for first with Howell, Rodgers and Simpson with seven holes to play shot 69 and finished alone in sixth at 16 under. □

Thompson wins LPGA finale, Jutanugarn wins Race to CME Globe

NAPLES, Fla. (AP) — Lexi Thompson was the best this week, and Ariya Jutanugarn was the best all season.

Neither left any doubt about that Sunday. Thompson shot a 2-under 70 to finish at 18-under 270 and win the LPGA's season-ending CME Group Tour Championship by four strokes over Nelly Korda. The win makes this the sixth consecutive year that Thompson has won at least once, extending the longest such active streak on the LPGA Tour. "Golf is my life," Thompson said. "But it is just what I do. I'm coming to realize that. Still not there some of the days because it is so much a part of my life, but it is just a sport. There is so much to life other than that, my family and my friends and just loving every bit of that and just being grateful for what I have."

Jutanugarn took the other two big prizes that were up for grabs this week, clinching the yearlong Race to the CME Globe prize — and the \$1 million bonus that comes with that — as well as the Vare Trophy for winning the season's scoring title. The world No. 1 already had wrapped up player of the year honors, and finished 2018 with a 69.415 scoring average to edge Minjee Lee (69.747) for the top spot there.

Jutanugarn shot a 66 on Sunday, finishing the week tied for fifth at 12-under

276.

"It felt great today," Jutanugarn said. "I'm very proud of myself."

Jutanugarn briefly lost the lead in the projected Globe standings on Sunday after Brooke Henderson made three birdies on her first seven holes to grab the top spot. Jutanugarn reclaimed the advantage with four birdies in a six-hole stretch midway through her round, and the trophy was just about locked up when she birdied the par-5 14th almost simultaneously to Henderson making bogey on the par-3 16th.

The 13th hole Sunday provided the shift that Thompson used to hold off Korda. They went to the tee of that par-4 with Thompson up by two; she made birdie, Korda made bogey, and Thompson was suddenly up four with five holes to play.

"It was just very special to win in front of all my family and friends," Thompson said.

Jutanugarn finished in style, rolling in a 15-footer for birdie on the final hole to cap the year where she swept the LPGA's biggest prizes.

"It means so much to me because like to be honest, after 2016 I never expected anything," Jutanugarn said. "I feel like I achieve like too much already in my life, so I never think I can do anything more than that. So this year ... just like unbelievable." □

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VW wants to storm car market with cheaper electric model

By DAVID McHUGH
AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— Volkswagen intends to invest 44 billion euros (\$50 billion) in the electric and autonomous car technologies expected to reshape the industry — and said it would make battery-powered vehicles more accessible to mass-market auto buyers by selling its new I.D. compact for about what a Golf diesel costs.

The investment plans for the next five years aim to make Volkswagen "a worldwide supplier of sustainable mobility," Chairman Hans Dieter Poetsch said Friday.

He added that the company is in talks with Ford about possible cooperation in making light commercial vehicles.

Established automakers as well as several U.S. startups are rolling out electric models to compete with Tesla, currently the market leader. Auto companies need electrics to meet new environmental standards in many countries.

In Europe, manufacturers need to sell more battery-powered cars to meet tougher EU limits on carbon dioxide emissions that come into force 2021 and



In this Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2018 file photo, the logo of Volkswagen is seen on top of a company building in Wolfsburg, Germany.

aim to fight global warming. Automakers like Volkswagen, Daimler and BMW risk penalties of thousands of euros per vehicle if they can't meet requirements for lower average emissions.

Authorities in China, where Volkswagen gets much of its profit, have also mandated a bigger share of electrics and hybrids.

Yet right now, such vehicles remain a niche market due to higher price and lack of

places to charge. Battery-only vehicles were only 0.6 percent of the market in the European Union last year. They are running from 1 to 2 percent of U.S. new-vehicle sales so far this year. Major new models unveiled in recent weeks from Daimler's Mercedes-Benz and Volkswagen's Audi brand have been expensive SUVs; Audi's e-tron starts at a German price of 80,000 euros. The starting price for Tesla's Model X is around

\$80,700 while the Model S starts around \$74,500.

VW's upcoming I.D. compact could take mass-market buyers from Tesla's Model 3, a mass-market car with a base price of \$35,000 before tax credits. In reality, though, you can't order one yet for less than \$46,000.

Poetsch said the I.D. compact would be about the cost of a Golf diesel today, which is priced at 23,875 euros in Germany, accord-

ing to Volkswagen's website, and goes up as options are added. The next model up the scale starts at 30,625 euros. General Motors, Nissan and Mitsubishi already are selling mass-market electric vehicles, but they're still more costly than cars with gasoline engines, and they haven't sold in great numbers.

Higher cost is one reason consumers are not yet buying purely electric vehicles in large numbers. The lack of charging points is another, leaving many owners of electric vehicles to use them mainly in cities or for shorter trips. Volkswagen and other automakers are working together on building a freeway network of fast-charging stations to enable longer trips with battery powered cars.

Chinese automakers as well as U.S. startup companies also are getting into the electric car market. Rivian, a Detroit-area company, plans to unveil a high-end electric pickup and SUV later this month, to go on sale in late 2020. Lucid Motors, a Newark, California, startup whose leadership includes six former Tesla executives, plans to deliver its first cars in 2020 as well. □

Associated Press

Ousted Sri Lankan PM's party asks Facebook to protect users

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — The ousted Sri Lankan prime minister's party urged Facebook to safeguard the identity of its supporters on the social media platform, fearing information sharing with what it calls the country's "illegal" government can lead to a crackdown against the users.

In a letter to Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg, the United National Party said such information could be used against the users "in ways which are legally prohibited."

Party spokesman Piyasena Dissanayaka said Sunday that Facebook blocked its official page ahead of a public rally on Thursday but

restored it on Saturday.

"It is very likely that officials from the current illegal administration ... may ask Facebook for information on selected Sri Lankan users of Facebook that should rightfully be private," said the letter, sent on Thursday.

"Such requests may include information on named individuals, geo locations and other identification details of users who view and post on these pages," the letter said. "It is vital this information be safeguarded as the current illegal administration will most likely use these in ways which are legally prohibited."

Dissanayaka said Facebook officials had not

yet responded to the letter.

Facebook said in an email to The Associated Press: "Facebook takes data protection and people's privacy very seriously and we have a responsibility to keep people safe on our services — whether from terrorism, bullying, or other threats. We also have a broader social responsibility to help bring people closer together — against polarization and extremism." Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe was sacked last month by President Maithripala Sirisena. Sirisena replaced Wickremesinghe with Mahinda Rajapaksa, who has had two no-confidence motions against him. □

North Korea's stable exchange rates confound economists

By ERIC TALMADGE
Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — It's a question that nags at North Korea economy watchers: How has the country been able to maintain stable exchange rates — and avert hyperinflation — despite intense sanctions, political tensions and a swelling trade imbalance?

In a nutshell, North Korea buys a whole lot more than it sells to China and, because of the sanctions, is doing hardly any business with anyone else. Since no one in their right mind would accept the internationally worthless North Korean currency for any significant trade deal, North Korea must be burning up its foreign reserves. And when a country does that, prices generally start to rise — often dangerously so. All of which should be reflected in its exchange rates.

So what gives?

Understanding what's going on with the North Korean economy is essential for negotiators trying to gauge how seriously leader Kim Jong Un is about giving up his nuclear weapons and whether sanctions are actually what got him to the negotiation table, as many in the U.S. government have suggested. Exchange rate stability would normally suggest otherwise. But does it?

"The fact that the rate is stable means that the overall economy of the country is stable and it is growing," Ri Ki Song, an economist with the Economic Institute of the North's Academy of Social Sciences, said in a recent interview in Pyongyang with The Associated Press. "Our economy is not an economy that relies on exports. ... Due to the sanctions, we are not making a lot of trade or financial dealings with other countries, so there will be not so many changes in the exchange rates."

The North Korean currency, called the won, has two exchange rates. One is set by the government at an artificially high level and is used mainly in shops or

hotels that deal only in foreign currency. The other, more closely watched, is tied to market forces and

limiting traders to a specific exchange rate bandwidth or reducing loans in the local currency to keep its cir-

said in an email to the AP. Brown, now an independent consultant, believes the North is doing what



In this Sept. 12, 2018, file photo, North Korean customers get assistance at a supermarket in Pyongyang, North Korea.

Associated Press

is a better reflection of actual economic conditions. It has stayed mostly within a narrow band of around 8,000 to the U.S. dollar since about 2012-2013.

As Ri suggested, there are signs the North Korean economy has been doing well under Kim. But there is clearly a lot more going on. First off, North Korea's economy has never been self-reliant. It has depended heavily on exporting goods such as coal, textiles and seafood.

"There's a reason these goods are sanctioned," said Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, co-editor of North Korean Economy Watch. He added that Kim has been trying to boost domestic production to reduce the country's reliance on imports and lift consumption of domestically made goods, which wouldn't be necessary if North Korea was economically self-reliant.

Silberstein and fellow economy watcher Peter Ward, in a paper published Thursday by the respected 38 North website, argued the North has several tools to promote stability, such as

culation low. They also suggested there simply might not be enough dollars in circulation for the market price to be impacted by the sentiments of ordinary people. Or, perhaps, the government is keeping it artificially stable "by sheer force — for political reasons — to present an image of resilience through sanctions."

Bill Brown, a former CIA officer and adjunct professor at Georgetown School of Foreign Service, said Ri's claims about overall economic stability aren't without merit.

"But the right question, then, is at what cost," he

China has been doing for the past 40 years — selling off its assets. Because the state owns all capital, he said, in the short term it can fund itself and protect the exchange rate by selling or privatizing a good part of its property. It could also be raising money by allowing officials to charge for ordinary activities or skimping on salaries while looking the other way as they accept bribes to make up the difference. The problem,

of course, is none of that is sustainable.

"Stable money is essential to building a new market economy, enhancing private sector-led productivity and growth and allowing citizens to save and invest their own money," Brown said. "I suspect Kim knows good, or at least not bad, relations with (President Donald) Trump and America are essential for confidence in the won and is behaving accordingly. So, for now, no ICBM or nuclear weapon tests, and lots of happy talk."

North Korean leaders are well aware of the dangers of a volatile currency.

Widespread panic ensued in 2009 when the government decided to exchange the old currency for a new one — at a rate of 100 to 1, erasing personal savings in one fell swoop. Kim Jong Un's father, Kim Jong Il, reportedly had the finance minister executed for the fiasco.

Because of such concerns, even ordinary people have good reason to want to keep their savings in dollars or Chinese yuan. And while confidence in the local currency has recovered in recent years, it still can't be converted into other currencies outside of North Korea and remains ill-suited for big transactions.

As Silberstein and Ward point out, its biggest denomination is the 5,000 bill — worth about 60 cents. □



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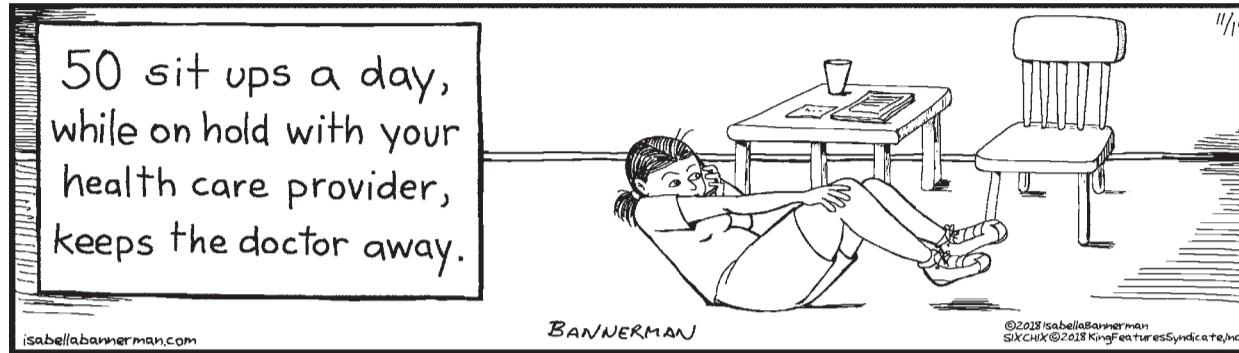
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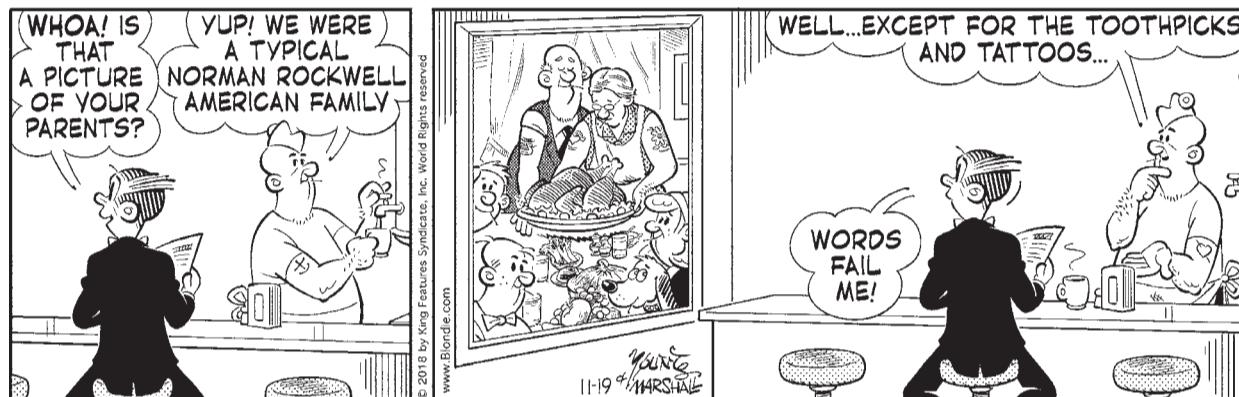
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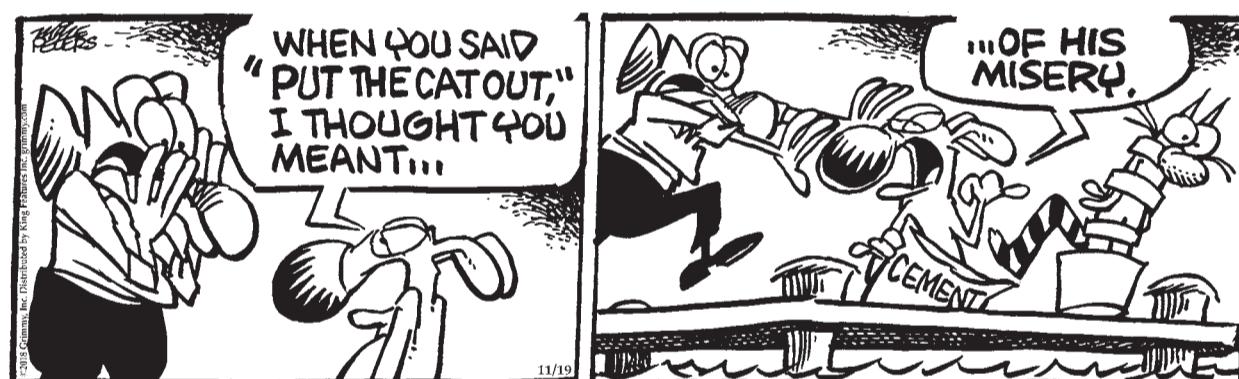
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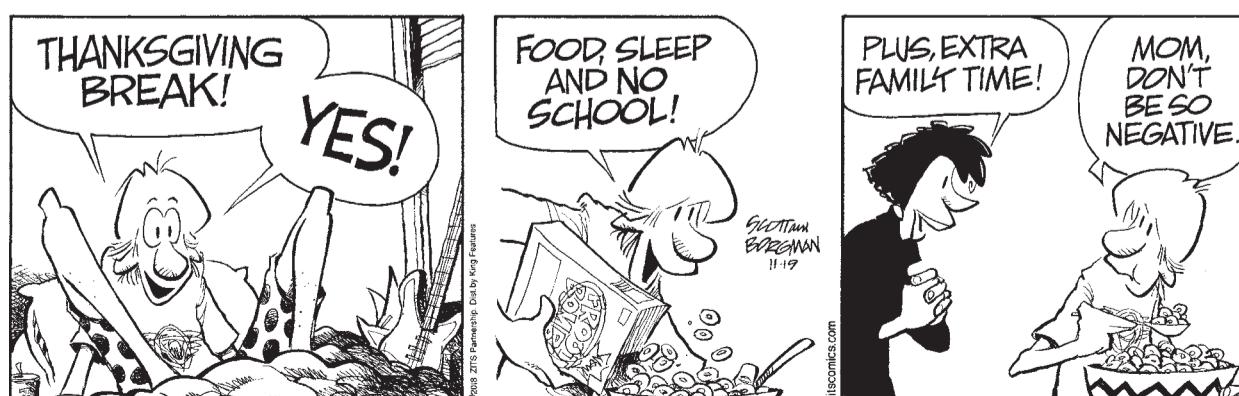
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Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	6	8	3	1							
4	7				2						
8			2	4		6	7				
6	8				1	9	4			2	
			2		8		1				
2				4	1	3	6			9	
			8				6	7			
				9	4	2	5				

Difficulty Level ★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

5	4	3	9	1	8	6	2	7			
1	2	8	7	6	5	4	3	9			
7	9	6	2	4	3	8	1	5			
9	1	7	5	2	4	3	8	6			
3	6	2	8	7	1	9	5	4			
8	5	4	6	3	9	1	7	2			
4	8	5	3	9	7	2	6	1			
6	3	9	1	5	2	7	4	8			
2	7	1	4	8	6	5	9	3			

Saturday's puzzle answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13		14	15						16		
17			18						19		
20		21							22		
			23						24	25	
26	27	28				29	30		31	32	33
34			35						36		
37		38							39		
40		41							42		
43		44							45		
		46							47		
48	49	50				51	52	53			
56			57						58		59
60			61						62		
63			64						65		

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/19/18

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

J	A	N	E	S	T	R	A	Y	P	A	S
A	L	E	S	P	E	A	U	A	U		
V	E	T	S	R	E	P	O	N	T	A	E
A	C	H	P	I	N	S	A	C	T	E	D
E	B	O	N	Y			A	P			
G	A	R	E	T			S	W	E	D	E
A	D	M	I	T			B	R	I	N	W
L	O	O	M	H	O	A	G	F	G	H	I
L	B	S	T	O	O	T	H	N	E	R	S
E	T	C	H	E	R		L	E	G		
L	E	S	T	E	R						
E	N	D	O	F	L	E	A	D	M	R	S
B	E	A	U	T	I	C	A	N	D	E	L
B	A	N	D	L	O	S	O	N	C	E	
S	T	A	Y	L	O	N	E	R	S		

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11/19/18

- ACROSS
- 1 Down in the dumps
 - 4 Zeal
 - 9 Out in the __; visible to all
 - 13 Mean guy
 - 15 " __ It to Beaver"
 - 16 One of Lloyd Bridges' sons
 - 17 Deceased
 - 18 Freestyle divisions
 - 19 Examination
 - 20 Invigorating substance
 - 22 __ and crafts
 - 23 Old MacDonald's place
 - 24 Boxer Muhammad
 - 26 Takes things in __; copes well
 - 29 Daytime shows
 - 34 "The __ Is Right"
 - 35 Witches' spells
 - 36 Knock
 - 37 Queue
 - 38 Obsolete
 - 39 Robe for Caesar
 - 40 __ a Small World
 - 41 Nat and Natalie
 - 42 West Point student
 - 43 Adolescent
 - 45 Ne'er-do-wells
 - 46 Bullring cheer
 - 47 Bothersome person
 - 48 Asian language
 - 51 Lending a hand
 - 56 Fumbler's word
 - 57 "It never __ but it pours"
 - 58 Yuletide carol
 - 60 Merriment
 - 61 Fill with joy
 - 62 Checkers or canasta
 - 63 Chances
 - 64 Evil spirit
 - 65 Presidential monogram
 - 77 Like a cliché
 - 78 Dishwasher cycle
 - 79 "Lovely Rita, __ maid..."
 - 80 Chopping tools
 - 81 Wear away
 - 82 Rarin' to go
 - 83 Arguments
 - 85 Hearty
 - 88 Like the pages of a well-read book
 - 89 Sampling
 - 90 Evil spirit
 - 91 Presidential monogram
 - 92 Layer of turf
 - 93 Word of disgust
 - 94 Charm; appeal
 - 95 Mimicked
- DOWN
- 1 Layer of turf
 - 2 Eras
 - 3 Word of disgust
 - 4 Charm; appeal
 - 5 Sounds
 - 45 Diminish
 - 47 Popular Ford subcompact of the '70s
 - 54 Genesis
 - 55 Diamonds & rubies
 - 59 " __ Me Call You Sweetheart"

Study finds healthy group of polar bears in sea near Alaska

By DAN JOLING

Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)

— The first formal count of polar bears in waters between the United States and Russia indicates they're doing better than some of their cousins elsewhere.

Polar bears are listed as a threatened species because of diminished sea ice due to climate change. But university and federal researchers estimate a healthy and abundant population of nearly 3,000 animals in the Chukchi Sea off Alaska's northwest coast, according to a study published Wednesday in Scientific Reports.

"It the near-term, it's absolutely good news," said lead author Eric Regehr, who began the project more than a decade ago as a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist and last year joined the University of Washington's Polar Science Center.

In the longer term, it doesn't mean the Chukchi Sea bear population will not be affected.

"Polar bears need ice to hunt seals, and the ice is projected to decline until the underlying problem of climate change is addressed," Regehr said.

The study shows there is variation around the world in the effects of sea ice loss on polar bears, he said Thursday.

"Some subpopulations are already declining while others are still doing OK," he said.

Polar bears are classified as marine mammals because they spend most of their lives on sea ice. Less sea ice means less productive time to hunt ice seals, more time on shore and longer, energy-sapping swims.

The world's polar bears are divided into 19 subpopulations, including two in U.S. waters. Besides Chukchi bears, the United States shares the southern Beaufort Sea population with Canada.

Stress in southern Beaufort bears from a loss of sea ice



In this undated photo provided by Eric Regehr, polar bears are seen on Wrangel Island in the Arctic Circle.

was partly why the United States in 2008 declared polar bears a threatened species.

Fewer cubs were surviving into their second year and adult males weighed less and had smaller skulls, the U.S. Geological Survey found. Researcher Steven Amstrup at the time said the trends were consistent with changes in nutritional status likely associated with declines in sea ice.

A more recent study by USGS researcher Karyn Rode found that Chukchi bears spend more time on shore and have almost 30 fewer days to hunt seals on ice than 20 years ago, Regehr said. However, that doesn't appear to have affected the population, he said.

Polar bears have an amazing ability to build fat reserves, Regehr said, and the Chukchi's abundant seal population apparently allows bears to compensate for the loss of hunting time. The difference with the southern Beaufort was obvious from an airplane, he said.

"It's visually striking to me, the difference, having worked in both places," Regehr said.

When ice melts, many Chukchi bears rest on Russia's Wrangell Island, where they occasionally can find

a whale or walrus carcass. The Chukchi population study used data collected by sampling about 60 polar bears between 2008 and 2016. Some were fitted with GPS transmitters. The data was used in a model designed to estimate population size for highly mobile large carnivores.

"It's nice to see that there's at least one population that's doing better than others," he said.

The difference may be geography, he said. The Chukchi Sea has a more extensive continental shelf area with primary productivity that enables the food chain to support seals. □

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Next generation of biotech food heading for grocery stores

By LAURAN NEERGAARD

AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The next generation of biotech food is headed for the grocery aisles, and first up may be salad dressings or granola bars made with soybean oil genetically tweaked to be good for your heart.

By early next year, the first foods from plants or animals that had their DNA "edited" are expected to begin selling. It's a different technology than today's controversial "genetically modified" foods, more like faster breeding that promises to boost nutrition, spur crop growth, and make farm animals harder and fruits and vegetables last longer.

The U.S. National Academy of Sciences has declared gene editing one of the breakthroughs needed to improve food production so the world can feed billions more people amid a changing climate. Yet governments are wrestling with how to regulate this powerful new tool. And after years of confusion and rancor, will shoppers accept gene-edited foods or view them as GMOs in disguise? "If the consumer sees the benefit, I think they'll embrace the products and worry less about the technology," said Dan Voytas, a University of Minnesota professor and chief science officer for Calyxt Inc., which edited soybeans to make the oil heart-healthy. Researchers are pursuing more ambitious changes: Wheat with triple the usual fiber, or that's low in gluten. Mushrooms that don't brown, and better-producing tomatoes. Drought-tolerant corn, and rice that no longer absorbs soil pollu-



Fred Gmitter, a geneticist at the University of Florida Citrus Research and Education Center, holds citrus seedlings that are used for gene editing research at the University of Florida in Lake Alfred, Fla., on Sept. 27, 2018.

Associated Press

tion as it grows. Dairy cows that don't need to undergo painful de-horning, and pigs immune to a dangerous virus that can sweep through herds.

Scientists even hope gene editing eventually could save species from being wiped out by devastating diseases like citrus greening, a so far unstoppable infection that's destroying Florida's famed oranges. First they must find genes that could make a new generation of trees immune. "If we can go in and edit the gene, change the DNA sequence ever so slightly by one or two letters, potentially we'd have a way to defeat this disease," said Fred Gmitter, a geneticist at the University of Florida Citrus Research and Education Center, as he examined diseased trees in a grove near Fort Meade.

GENETICALLY MODIFIED OR EDITED, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Farmers have long genetically manipulated crops and animals by selectively breeding to get offspring with certain traits. It's time-consuming and can bring trade-offs. Modern tomatoes, for example, are larger than their pea-sized

wild ancestor, but the generations of cross-breeding made them more fragile and altered their nutrients. GMOs, or genetically modified organisms, are plants or animals that were mixed with another species' DNA to introduce a specific trait — meaning they're "transgenic." Best known are corn and soybeans mixed with bacterial genes for built-in resistance to pests or weed killers.

Despite international scientific consensus that GMOs are safe to eat, some people remain wary and there is concern they could spur herbicide-resistant weeds. Now gene-editing tools, with names like CRISPR and TALENs, promise to alter foods more precisely, and at less cost, without necessarily adding foreign DNA. Instead, they act like molecular scissors to alter the letters of an organism's own genetic alphabet.

The technology can insert new DNA, but most products in development so far switch off a gene, according to University of Missouri professor Nicholas Kalaitzandonakes.

Those new Calyxt soybeans? Voytas' team inactivated two genes so the beans produce oil with no heart-damaging trans fat and that shares the famed health profile of olive oil without its distinct taste.

The hornless calves? Most dairy Holsteins grow horns that are removed for the safety of farmers and other cows. Recombinetics Inc. swapped part of the gene that makes dairy cows grow horns with the DNA



Fred Gmitter, a geneticist at the University of Florida Citrus Research and Education Center, holds an orange affected by citrus greening disease at a grove in Fort Meade, Fla., on Sept. 27, 2018.

Associated Press

instructions from naturally hornless Angus beef cattle. "Precision breeding," is how animal geneticist Alison Van Eenennaam of the University of California, Davis, explains it. "This isn't going to replace traditional breeding," but make it easier to add one more trait.

RULES AREN'T CLEAR

The Agriculture Department says extra rules aren't needed for "plants that could otherwise have been developed through traditional breeding," clearing the way for development of about two dozen gene-edited crops so far.

In contrast, the Food and Drug Administration in 2017 proposed tighter, drug-like restrictions on gene-edited animals. It promises guidance sometime next year on exactly how it will proceed. Because of trade, international regulations are "the most important factor in whether genome editing technologies are commercialized," USDA's Paul Spencer told a meeting of agriculture economists.

Europe's highest court ruled last summer that existing European curbs on the sale of transgenic GMOs should apply to gene-edited foods, too. But at the World Trade Organization this month, the U.S. joined 12 nations including Australia, Canada, Argentina and Brazil in urging other countries to adopt internationally consistent, science-based rules for gene-edited agriculture.

ARE THESE FOODS SAFE?

The biggest concern is what are called off-target edits, unintended changes

to DNA that could affect a crop's nutritional value or an animal's health, said Jennifer Kuzma of the Genetic Engineering and Society Center at North Carolina State University.

Scientists are looking for any signs of problems. Take the hornless calves munching in a UC-Davis field. One is female and once it begins producing milk, Van Eenennaam will test how similar that milk's fat and protein composition is to milk from unaltered cows. "We're kind of being overly cautious," she said, noting that if eating beef from naturally hornless Angus cattle is fine, milk from edited Holsteins should be, too.

But to Kuzma, companies will have to be up-front about how these new foods were made and the evidence that they're healthy. She wants regulators to decide case-by-case which changes are no big deal, and which might need more scrutiny.

"Most gene-edited plants and animals are probably going to be just fine to eat. But you're only going to do yourself a disservice in the long run if you hide behind the terminology," Kuzma said.

AVOIDING A BACKLASH

Uncertainty about regulatory and consumer reaction is creating some strange bedfellows. An industry-backed group of food makers and farmers asked university researchers and consumer advocates to help craft guidelines for "responsible use" of gene editing in the food supply. □

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William Goldman, Oscar winner for 'Butch Cassidy,' has died

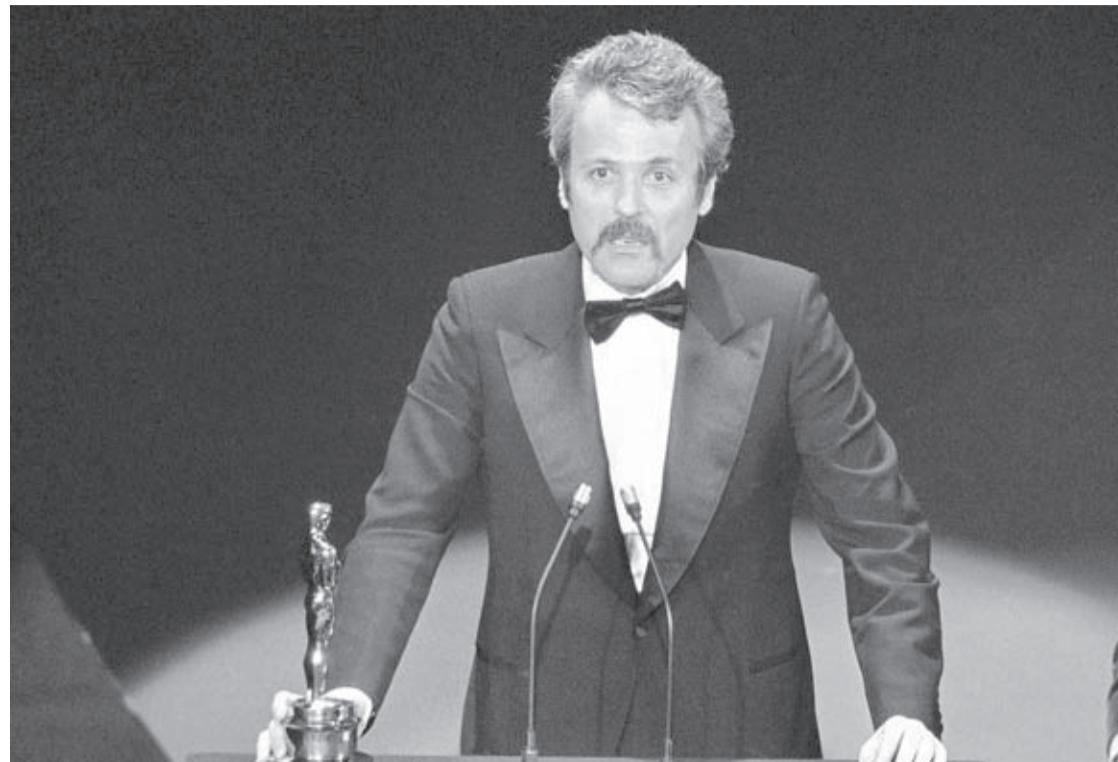
By JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — William Goldman, the Oscar-winning screenwriter and Hollywood wise man who won Academy Awards for "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" and "All the President's Men" and summed up the mystery of making a box office hit by declaring "Nobody knows anything," has died. He was 87. Goldman's daughter Jenny said her father died early Friday in New York due to complications from colon cancer and pneumonia. "So much of what's he's written can express who he was and what he was about," she said, adding that the last few weeks, while Goldman was ailing, revealed just how many people considered him family.

Goldman, who also converted his novels "Marathon Man," "Magic," "The Princess Bride" and "Heat" into screenplays, clearly knew more than most about what the audience wanted. He was not only a successful film writer but a top script doctor, the industry title for an uncredited writer brought in to improve or "punch up" weak screenplays.

Goldman also made political history by coining the phrase "follow the money" in his script for "All the President's Men," adapted from the book by Washington Post reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein on the Watergate political scandal. The film starred Robert Redford as Woodward and Dustin Hoffman as Bernstein. Standing in the shadows, Hal Holbrook was the mystery man code-named Deep Throat who helped the reporters pursue the evidence. His advice, "Follow the money," became so widely quoted that few people realized it was never said during the actual scandal.

A confirmed New Yorker, Goldman declined to work in Hollywood. Instead, he would fly to Los Angeles for two-day conferences with directors and producers, then return home to fash-



In this March 28, 1977 file photo, William Goldman accepts his Oscar at Academy Awards in Los Angeles, for screenplay from other medium for "All The President's Men."

Associated Press

ion a script, which he did with amazing speed. In his 1985 book, "Adventures in the Screen Trade," he expressed disdain for an industry that elaborately produced and tested a movie, only to see it dismissed by the public during its first weekend in theaters. "Nobody knows anything," he remarked.

Screenwriter and filmmaker Aaron Sorkin called Goldman a mentor.

"He was the dean of American screenwriters and generations of filmmakers will continue to walk in the footprints he laid," Sorkin said in a statement. "He wrote so many unforgettable movies, so many thunderous novels and works of non-fiction, and while I'll always wish he'd written one more, I'll always be grateful for what he's left us."

Goldman launched his writing career after receiving a master's degree in English from Columbia University in 1956. Weary of academia, he declined the chance to earn a Ph.D., choosing instead to write the novel "The Temple of Gold" in 10 days. Knopf agreed to publish it. Instead, he wrote other novels, including "Soldier in the Rain," which became a movie starring Steve McQueen. Goldman also co-authored a play and a musical with his older brother, James, but both

failed on Broadway. James Goldman would later write the historical play "The Lion in Winter," which he converted to film, winning the 1968 Oscar for best adapted screenplay. William Goldman had come to screenwriting by accident after actor Cliff Robertson read one of his books, "No Way to Treat a Lady," and thought it was a film treatment. After he hired the young writer to fashion a script from a short story, Goldman rushed out to buy a book on screen writing. Robertson rejected the script but found Goldman a job working on a screenplay for a British thriller. After that he adapted his novel "Harper" for a 1966 film starring Paul Newman as a private eye. □

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'Creed II' goes more than the distance. It's a KO

By MARK KENNEDY

Associated Press

The weight of legacy hangs heavily over "Creed II." Not just for most of the characters, who must come to grips with their own family histories. But also for the filmmakers, tasked with making a sequel to a successful spin-off of a beloved franchise. It would put any film on the ropes. Not this one.

"Creed II" pulls off a rather amazing feat by adding to the luster of its predecessor and propelling the narrative into a bright future while also reaching back to honor its past, resurrecting unfinished business from "Rocky IV" and adding a dash of "Rocky III." Pound per pound, the sequel might even be better than its predecessor.

Steven Caple Jr. replaced Ryan Coogler in the director's chair this time but there is plenty of continuity: Michael B. Jordan returns as Adonis Creed, with Sylvester Stallone by his side as former heavyweight champ and trainer Rocky Balboa. Also back: Tessa



This image released by Metro Goldwyn Mayer Pictures / Warner Bros. Pictures shows Florian Munteanu, left, and Michael B. Jordan in a scene from "Creed II."

Thompson as Creed's love interest, Phylicia Rashad as Creed's mom, and Wood Harris as a coach. Max Kellerman is ringside again as color commentator. The sequel pits Creed against man-mountain Viktor Drago, the son of Ivan Drago, who killed Adonis Creed's father, Apollo Creed, in the ring in "Rocky IV." That stirs up trauma for

Rocky, who feels responsible for the elder Creed's demise.

Rocky went on to avenge the death by beating the elder Drago but we also now learn what that disgrace meant for the Dragos. This film is about ghosts as much as it is a meditation on fatherhood. At one point Kellerman says the showdown between the sons of Creed and Drago is almost like a Shakespearean drama and — laugh if you must — it feels sort of right here.

Desire — or lack of it — plays a key role in "Creed II" since we meet young Adonis as the new champion, at the top. Viktor Drago is at the bottom, hauling cement in Ukraine and burning for family redemption. "My son will break your boy," Ivan Drago threatens Rocky, who sort of agrees. "When a fighter's got nothing to lose he's dangerous," he warns Creed. "Listen, that kid was raised in hate. You weren't." Dolph Lundgren returns as the elder Drago and there's

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even an appearance by Brigitte Nielsen, who plays Drago's wife in 1985 and was a real-life wife of Stallone. (Talk about keeping it in the family.)

Caple matches Coogler's moody, gritty vision of a brutal sport conducted by mostly honorable men trying to outwit each other. There's plenty of gore, slo-mos of smashed heads and "Rocky" trademarks — the glorious montages with uplifting music as fighters prepare for their shot in the ring. (Prepare to look away if you are fans of massive truck tires — many get horrible beat downs.)

Stallone got his mitts on the script — after having had a role penning all the "Rocky" films but sitting out writing "Creed" — and teams up with Cheo Hodari Coker, creator of the Netflix superhero hit "Luke Cage." Onscreen, Stallone returns with his dark fedora and small bouncing ball, shuffling about and mumbling, allowing his sad eyes to do the bulk of his acting. It's in the small moments between crusty Stallone and cocky Jordan where the film finds its sweet spot. "What are you fightin' for?" the elder man asks the younger. □

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NOV 17-18: 11:30AM

	EDDIE REDMAYNE JOHNNY DEPP THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD
	VIOLA DAVIS LIAM NEESON WIDOWS
	MARK WAHLBERG ROSE BYRNE instant family
	CLAIRE FOY SYLVIA HOEK THE GIRL ON THE SPIDER'S WEB
	ROWAN ATKINSON OLGA KURYLENKO JOHNNY ENGLISH REBORN
	BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH CAMERON SEELY THE GRINCH
	RAMI MALEK LUCY BOYNTON BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY
	ROBIN HOOD STARTING NOVEMBER 22: RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET • ROBIN HOOD

Palm Beach Plaza | THE MAGIC OF THE MOVIES ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE

Lee Child has delivered another winner

By JEFF AYERS
Associated Press

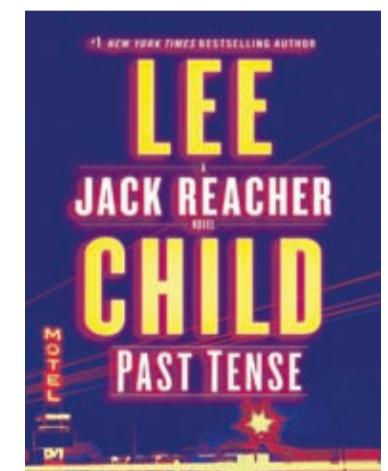
"Past Tense: a Jack Reacher Novel" (Delacorte Press), by Lee Child

While Jack Reacher is exploring the United States, he stumbles on a rural area in New Hampshire and spots a sign with a name that's familiar to him — the town where his father was born.

Reacher decides to take a detour from his plan to investigate his dad's life. His plan goes awry when he visits the city clerk's office and the local library. He also talks to folks who have lived in the tiny town their entire lives. According to the evidence, no one with the last name of Reacher ever lived there.

While Reacher searches for answers in "Past Tense," two young people from Canada run into a bit of bad luck when their car breaks down. Since the area is isolated and they are lacking in funds, they are in a bind. Patty and her boyfriend, Shorty, are happy when a local offers to help them with their car and puts them in a newly renovated motel. It soon becomes terrifying when they realize their knight in shining armor is lying and has taken them prisoner.

The two stories eventually collide in a surprising way, and the last third of the novel is tense and exciting. Patty and Shorty's story invokes elements of "Psycho" mixed with some Stephen



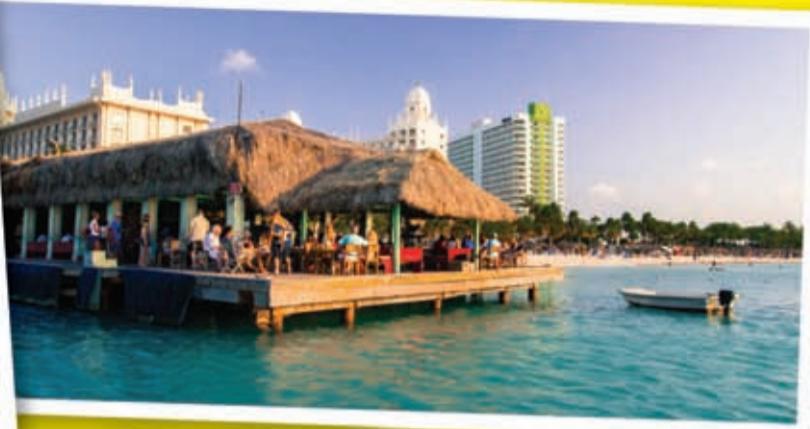
This cover image released by Delacorte Press shows "Past Tense," a Jack Reacher novel by Lee Child.

Associated Press

King. The novel starts more slowly than typical Lee Child narratives, but once "Past Tense" gets past the opening, Child kicks the story into high gear. □

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Composer Lalo Schifrin says Oscar is an 'amazing honor'

By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lalo Schifrin's unconventional scores have a way of getting into your head and staying there. The Argentinian composer has written more than 100 arrangements for film and television, including "Dirty Harry," "Bullitt," "Cool Hand Luke," and, perhaps most famously, the theme for "Mission: Impossible."

In over 50 years of work, he's also racked up six Academy Award nominations — five for original score ("Cool Hand Luke," "The Fox," "Voyage of the Damned," "The Amityville Horror," and "The Sting II") and one for original song — but has gone home empty handed every time. That'll change Sunday at the 10th annual Governors Awards where Schifrin, along with actress Cicely Tyson and publicist Marvin Levy, will

be given a prestigious honorary Oscar statuette. Schifrin called the honor "amazing" and thanked the members of the film academy for their "generosity."

Schifrin has been training in music since a very young age — his father was a respected musician locally in Buenos Aires who started him early. He piano studied with Enrique Barenboim and Juan Carlos Paz, and eventually got accepted into the prestigious Paris Conservatory, where he learned about harmony and composition from Olivier Messiaen ("He was a great influence on me.")

Schifrin, who is also an accomplished jazz musician, impressed the likes of Dizzy Gillespie along the way before making his way to Los Angeles.

Lately the 86-year-old has been less focused on film scores and more on classic



In this Nov. 10, 2016 file photo, Argentina's composer Lalo Schifrin gestures as he arrives before being awarded Commandeur in the Arts and Letters order by French Culture and Communication minister Audrey Azoulay in Paris.

Associated Press

compositions, but Schifrin still loves films and reflected on some of his best-known works.

"Every movie has its own personality. There are no rules to write music for movies," Schifrin said. "The movie dictates what the music

will be."

One prime example is "Dirty Harry," where Schifrin decided that the main character wasn't in fact Clint Eastwood's hero Harry Callahan, but the villain, Scorpio.

"You would think the com-

poser would pay more attention to the hero. But in this case, no I did it to Scorpio, the bad guy, the evil guy," he said. "I wrote a theme for Scorpio."

But it has been the "Mission: Impossible" score, famously written in the unusual 5/4 time signature, that has continued to remain his most popular and recognizable, as the Tom Cruise film series continues introducing new generations to the urgent earworm.

"To me it was a surprise that the theme became so popular with people," Schifrin said. A producer at the time told him that he wanted something simple, something compact, and something that people can hear from the kitchen and know exactly which show is starting. "I went to write something simple," he said. "And over time it became so popular and I'm so happy about it." □

Watch geeks drive booming trade in preowned pieces

By AMIR BIBAWY

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Around two dozen traders sit in an open-layout second floor of a building in suburban Philadelphia. Surrounded by computer monitors, loud conversation and ringing phones, the energy on this trading floor is high and the commodity is blingy.

At the headquarters of Govberg, they're not dealing in diamonds or gold but preowned luxury watches, of which company sells about \$200 million worth a year.

Some 100 miles (160 kilometers) northeast, 23-year-old Christian Zeron sits in his parents' dining room in suburban New Jersey looking at around 30 preowned vintage watches. In a few days, he'll put them up for sale on his company's website, theoandharris.com, which sells \$2 million worth of watches annually. Govberg, in the watch business for 35 years, and Theo&Harris, founded only three years ago, are part of the thriving preowned luxury watch business. Along with dozens of other companies, they are the core of an industry that has exploded over the past few years, rivaling the new luxury timepiece business in size.

"It's bigger than people think," said Reginald Brack, executive director and industry analyst for watches and luxury at NPD Group, which studies \$2 trillion in consumer spending across 20 industries.

Brack said it's difficult to quantify precisely the market for preowned watches because nobody tracks it thoroughly. But some estimates put it at three times the new luxury watch market, itself estimated to be worth up to \$10 billion just in the U.S.

"I wouldn't disagree with that statement," Brack said. "And it's only getting bigger."

Even though watches have been disappearing from people's wrists with the spread of mobile phones, luxury watches remain a popular status symbol. In fact, sales have slightly



In this May 31, 2018, photo watches lie on a table in front of Christian Zeron as he talks with Anna Griffin in Westfield, N.J. Zeron's company website, theoandharris.com, sells \$2 million's worth of watches annually.

crept up in the last two years. The preowned business allows shoppers to get a good deal on modern watches like Rolex Submariner, while also offering a large selection of vintage pieces like an early 20th-century Cartier Tank.

Danny Govberg, the founder of Govberg's global watch operation WatchBox, compared the rise of preowned watches to the "quartz revolution" nearly five decades ago.

The introduction of battery-operated quartz movements in wristwatches took a big bite out of the market share from major automatic or mechanical watch brands such as Rolex, Omega, Patek Philippe, Jaeger-LeCoultre, and Audemars Piguet.

Those brands, which have since recovered, are now

the bread and butter of today's preowned watch traders. "Preowned watches are coming out of drawers so fast and furious now that I've never seen anything like it," Govberg said in an interview in the company's headquarters in Bala Cynwyd, just outside Philadelphia. "It's a real disruption coming to our industry."

Luxury brands have taken note. In June, Richemont, the owner of such brands as Cartier and IWC, bought Watchfinder, a British online platform for trading pre-owned watches.

"The preowned market has taken some business from the new market, there's no question," said Steven Kaiser, a veteran watch industry executive and founder of Kaiser Time, a New York-based luxury industry con-

sulting firm. Govberg entered the preowned watch business in 1983 when he introduced watches to his family's jewelry store on Jewelers' Row on Philadelphia's Sansom Street.

"People weren't collecting vintage watches back then," he said, recalling that he would travel to Europe to buy used Rolexes and Patek Phillips from watch shows. "Little shows that you would go to, almost like trading card shows. Like wristwatch swap shows."

At the turn of the millennium, new platforms such as eBay drove Govberg to adopt his own online strategy. Ultimately, he founded WatchBox, a digital platform and app that includes video reviews and a trading market for valuable timepieces.

The company recently launched a second season of "The Classroom," a YouTube series that aims to educate watch enthusiasts about the intricacies of owning a watch that could be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Zeron, of Theo&Harris, also uses video to offer his thoughts on the industry. He regularly gets hundreds of thousands of views for his four weekly YouTube posts. "Social media is where it



This May 24, 2018, photo shows preowned watches on display at Govberg's flagship store in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

took off," he said, sitting in his parents' living room with Anna Griffin who was his first employee and a fellow student at Seton Hall University in New Jersey. "We don't have a retail store — there was no actual foot traffic. It was all social buzz."

The young entrepreneur, who founded the company with \$10,000 in saved up birthday money when he was a college sophomore, has a larger-than-life persona on social media, with a no-holds-barred approach to roasting iconic brands such as Breitling. Some of his viewers comment that he needs to lay off the caffeine or sugar.

The internet has democratized horological knowledge, much like other niche areas of expertise like aviation.

A watch enthusiast can spend hours on web forums, debating the differences between the various iterations of a \$4,500 Tudor Black Bay ("I love the domed crystal but I'd be interested to see it 1mm thicker," says one member on RolexForums.com of the latest "Fifty-Eight" release.) The explosive growth of pre-owned watch sales has deeper roots than social media, however. There's an emotional and intellectual appeal to owning a mechanical device that could have three hundred small pieces inside.

Take the ubiquitous iPhone — easily replaceable, Zeron notes.

"If your vintage Omega breaks, that's it. It's over. You will never get another one like it," he said. "You are going to remember the drinks and the dates and the arguments you had in it. You are going to be sad that you lost it."

"If you went into an IWC boutique, they may have 50, 60, 70, 80 watches to choose from," Govberg said. "But in the pre-owned space of IWC, you may have 900 watches to choose from."

But the bottom line is that a pre-owned luxury watch in great condition is usually a third of the price of a new one. □